



**RACHEL CHU'S STRUGGLE AS A BICULTURAL  
INDIVIDUAL IN THE JON M. CHU'S "CRAZY RICH  
ASIANS"**

**A THESIS**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Degree  
Majoring American Cultural Studies in English Department  
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

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**2020**

## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer honestly confirms that she compiles this thesis herself and without taking any results from other researches in S-1, S-2, S-3 and diploma degree of any university. The writer ascertains also that she does not quote any material from other publications except from the reference mentioned.

Semarang, 2020

Amita Farra Saputrie

## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

*Be the change that you wish to see in the world.*

– **Mahatma Gandhi**

*If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl,  
but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.*

– **Martin Luther King Jr.**

*This thesis is dedicated to my beloved family  
and everyone who help me  
to get through my darkest time.*

**APPROVAL**  
**RACHEL CHU'S STRUGGLE AS A BICULTURAL INDIVIDUAL IN THE**  
**JON M. CHU'S "CRAZY RICH ASIANS"**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Praise to God Almighty Allah SWT who has given the strength, blessing and spirit so this thesis entitled Rachel Chu's Struggle as A Bicultural Individual in the Jon M. Chu's "Crazy Rich Asians" came to a completion. On this occasion, I would like to thank all people who have helped me completing this thesis.

The deepest gratitude and appreciation are extended to my thesis advisor, Arido Laksono, S.S., M.Hum., who has given his continuous guidance, advice, correction and suggestion, without which it is doubtful that this thesis came into completion.

My deepest gratitude also goes to the following:

1. Dr. Nurhayati, M. Hum. as the Dean of Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University.
2. Dr. Agus Subiyanto, M.A. as the Head of English Department Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University.
3. All the lectures (especially those teaching the American Cultural Studies) for giving abundance of knowledge.
4. My mother, my father and my sister for giving endless love, support and prayers to me.
5. Nida Restitandyah, Britta Putri, Ratih Iman, Fira Adelia, Salma Salsabila, and Salsabila Elingga for always sticking around since years ago and helping me to get through the ups and downs.

6. Special thanks to Mahendra Nata for the endless companionship, help and support at all times. Without you, I would hardly find my passion in completing this thesis.
7. Desy Auralita, Arifia Pratiwi, Syafira Zakky, Amindya Galuh, Luvila Al Fitra, and Feriska Natasya for the companion since the day one in college and for all the good times and support you all have given to me.
8. Nurika Cahyaningrum and Ekgoan Susanti for the help during my thesis examination.
9. Devi Saviera for always listening to me and giving the best advices.
10. All my friends in batch 2016 especially from Avengers Class, and the other friends who cannot be mentioned one by one.

I fully realize that this thesis is far from being perfect. Therefore, I am glad to receive any constructive criticism and suggestion in order to make this thesis better.

I hope that this thesis will be useful to the readers who wish to obtain a deeper understanding about bicultural individual and its impact.

Semarang, December 2020

Amita Farra Saputrie

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title .....	i
Pronouncement.....	ii
Motto and Dedication.....	iii
Approval.....	iv
Validation .....	v
Acknowledgement.....	vi
Table of Contents .....	viii
List of Pictures .....	x
Abstract .....	xii
Chapter 1 .....	1
1.1 Background of the Study .....	1
1.2 Scope of the Study .....	3
1.3 Objective of the Study .....	3
1.4 Previous Studies .....	3
1.5 Methods of the Study .....	5
1.5.1. Method of Research .....	5
1.5.2. Method of Approach .....	6
1.6 Organization of the Study .....	6
Chapter 2 .....	8
2.1 The Author's Biography .....	8
2.2 The Summary .....	9
Chapter 3 .....	13
3.1 Narrative Aspects .....	13
3.1.1. Intrinsic Aspects .....	13
3.1.1.1. Theme .....	13
3.1.1.2. Character and Characterization .....	14
3.1.1.3. Setting .....	14
3.1.1.4. Conflict .....	15



3.1.2. Extrinsic Aspects .....	15
3.1.2.1 Chinese Culture .....	15
3.1.2.2. American Culture .....	17
3.1.2.3. Biculturalism, Bicultural Identity Integration and It's Impact .....	18
3.1.3. Cinematography Elements .....	21
3.1.3.1. Camera Shots .....	22
3.1.3.2. Camera Angles .....	23
3.1.3.3. Sound .....	24
3.1.3.4. Mise En Scene .....	24
Chapter 4 .....	25
4.1. Intrinsic Aspects .....	25
4.1.1. Theme .....	25
4.1.2. Character and Characterization .....	25
4.1.2.1. Protagonist .....	25
4.1.2.2. Antagonist .....	30
4.1.2.3. Major Characters .....	32
4.1.2.4. Minor Characters .....	38
4.1.3. Setting .....	40
4.1.3.1. Setting of Place .....	40
4.1.3.2. Setting of Time .....	41
4.1.3.3. Setting of the General Environment .....	41
4.1.4. Conflict .....	43
4.1.4.1. Internal Conflict .....	43
4.1.4.2. External Conflict .....	44
4.2. Extrinsic Aspect .....	47
4.2.1. Bicultural Individual .....	47
Chapter 5 .....	57
References .....	59

## LIST OF PICTURES

Picture 4-1 .....	26
Picture 4.2 .....	27
Picture 4-3 .....	28
Picture 4-4 .....	31
Picture 4-5 .....	35
Picture 4-6 .....	35
Picture 4-7 .....	35
Picture 4-8 .....	35
Picture 4-9 .....	36
Picture 4-10 .....	36
Picture 4-11 .....	38
Picture 4-12 .....	38
Picture 4-13 .....	39
Picture 4-14 .....	39
Picture 4-15 .....	39
Picture 4-16 .....	39
Picture 4-17 .....	40
Picture 4-18 .....	40
Picture 4-19 .....	40
Picture 4-20 .....	40
Picture 4-21 .....	40
Picture 4-22 .....	40
Picture 4-23 .....	41
Picture 4-24 .....	42
Picture 4-25 .....	42
Picture 4-26 .....	43
Picture 4-27 .....	43
Picture 4-28 .....	43

Picture 4-29.....	46
Picture 4-30 .....	50
Picture 4-31 .....	51
Picture 4-32 .....	51
Picture 4-33 .....	51
Picture 4-34 .....	51
Picture 4-35 .....	52
Picture 4-36 .....	52
Picture 4-37 .....	52
Picture 4-38 .....	56
Picture 4-39 .....	56

## ABSTRACT

The immigrants who come from various countries around the world bring their original culture to America. To survive in America, they are forced to learn and adjust themselves to the American culture and lifestyle. Regarding to this situation, some of the immigrants can hold two cultures, which are their original culture and receiving culture. These people who can balance both of the cultures are called bicultural individual. The bicultural individual is represented by Rachel Chu in *Crazy Rich Asians* (2018) film, because she is a Chinese descent who lives in America, or called as Chinese-American. Besides, Rachel Chu experiences discrimination from the member or her original culture as the consequence of being bicultural individual. In this thesis, the writer analyzes the Bicultural Identity Integration (BII) level of Rachel Chu and her struggle in facing the issue she acquired for being bicultural. The purpose of this study is to analyze the narrative and cinematography aspects of the film. The narrative aspects include the intrinsic and extrinsic aspect, whereas the cinematography aspect is used to support the analysis of the film itself. The writer uses the library research method in collecting the data and sociological approach to support the analysis and discussion. This study is resulting that based on the evidences, Rachel Chu tends to appear more like American than Chinese. Also, as a bicultural, she gets discrimination from Eleanor Young, as the member of the original culture. In conclusion, Rachel Chu is considered as an individual with low level of BII.

**Keywords:** *Crazy Rich Asians*, bicultural identity integration, discrimination

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

There are so many immigrants coming from various countries to America in order to get a better living and pursue their dreams. One of those immigrants is coming from Asia, or so-called Asian immigrants. Asian immigrants were highly increased in total during 2000-2015 (around 72%) and it is the fastest-growing U.S. minority among the other immigrants (Lopez et al., 2017). Also, based on the data on the research, the largest country that dominates the Asian immigrants in the U.S. is Chinese, Indian and Filipino. In 2015, 24% of Asian immigrants is Chinese, and the second and third largest origins are Indian (around 20%) and Filipinos (around 19%). Based on the data, Chinese has the highest rate among Asian immigrants who live in the U.S.

The Chinese who live in America surely have to adjust themselves toward their new surrounding, and they have to learn the new culture around them, so that they can survive. However, the Chinese are taught by their ancestors to implement the Confucius teaching in their daily life. The Confucius teaching, or Confucianism, is a traditional philosophy and a system of belief that teach morality and regulate human behavior to create a harmonious life (Li, 2009:347). The center of Confucius teaching is about human relationships, and it is practicable in the daily life (Dhakhwa & Enriquez, 2008:3). Regardless of a belief, the philosophy of Confucian becomes the basic of the Chinese culture

because it has a strong influence in China for more than two thousand years, which teaches people to have virtuous behavior in the society (Littrell, 2006:3). This situation might force the Chinese immigrants to maintain the Chinese culture and learning American culture. In sum, most of the Chinese immigrants certainly have two cultures inside them, which are Chinese culture and American culture. These people who have two different cultures inside them and have the capability of combining both cultures are called bicultural individual. The illustration of a bicultural individual of Chinese-American immigrants is depicted in the main character of a movie entitled *Crazy Rich Asian*, Rachel Chu.

*Crazy Rich Asians* is an American drama comedy directed by Jon M. Chu in 2018, which tells a story of two lovebirds named Rachel Chu, a Chinese – American who live in New York and work at New York University as an economics professor, and Nick Young, a rich Chinese man from Singapore who live in America as an immigrant as well. They come all the way from New York to Nick's hometown, which is Singapore, to attend Nick's friend wedding party, also, Nick has a desire to introduce Rachel to his family. But, there is a big problem appear from Nick's family toward Rachel, which is Eleanor, Nick's mother, does not like Rachel because she grows as an American, although, Rachel is a Chinese descent as well. Besides, has different economic status with Nick. At the end, Rachel proves Eleanor that she is worth to be with Nick and Eleanor gives her blessing to their relationship.

After watching the film, the writer also discovered another issue in the film. The main character, Rachel Chu, gets the discrimination from Nick's

mother, Eleanor, regarding to her family background and her identity as a Chinese-American. Her bicultural identity becomes one of reasons why Eleanor would not give her blessing to Rachel and Nick's relationship. The writer is interested in discussing the conflict between Rachel and Eleanor, and Rachel's struggle in facing the issue she acquired as a bicultural individual.

## **1.2 Scope of the Study**

In this thesis, the writer focuses on the discussion of the Rachel Chu's conflict with Eleanor Young regarding to her bicultural identity along with the narrative aspects and cinematography elements of the *Crazy Rich Asians* film.

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

The writer has several objectives to answer the research problems, those are:

1. Explaining the narrative aspects and cinematography elements of the film
2. Analyzing the main character's bicultural identity in *Crazy Rich Asians* film.
3. Revealing the conflict between Rachel Chu and Eleanor Young and Rachel Chu's struggle as a bicultural individual.

#### 1.4 Previous Studies

To underlie the discussion, the writer uses several preliminary findings related to the issues in the *Crazy Rich Asians* film. First, a research entitled *Family Conflict Reflected in Kevin Kwan's Crazy Rich Asians (2013): A Sociological Approach* by Dwi Rohmawati (2018) talks about the family conflict between Rachel Chu as the main character of the film with the Young family and her mother, Kerry Chu. Also, Rohmawati discusses about the conflict within Cheng's family members. In analyzing her discussion, Rohmawati uses sociological approach (2018:3). In her research, Rohmawati states that all the family conflict occurred in the *Crazy Rich Asians* film is portraying the common conflict that happened in the society (2018:11).

Second, a journal article entitled *Crazy Rich Asians* written by C. N. Le and Miliann Kang (2019) discussed about the film itself. Le and Kang describe how the *Crazy Rich Asians* film can be the most successful romantic comedy movie for the last 10 years. Also, Le and Kang said in the article that according to Warner Brothers, around 40% of the movie audiences during its premiere week were Asian Americans. It shows how the *Crazy Rich Asians* film can attract so many audiences particularly the Asian Americans (2019:525-527).

Third, a journal article entitled *Makna Identitas Budaya dan Konflik Antaretnis dalam Film "Crazy Rich Asians"* written by Muhammad Arsi and Alex Sobur (2019) talking about the Asian-American cultural identity and the conflicts appeared in the film. Arsi and Sobur use Greimas narrative semiotics theory and functional schemes to analyze the issues (2019:49). Also, they stated



in their article that through the characterization, Asian American identity is depicted as having dominant values that reflect collectivism, adjustment to norms, self-emotional control, as these things are in line with the perspective of Asian culture.

The writer found the gap between those preliminary studies. Most of the studies are talking about the conflict between the main character (Rachel Chu) and the Young family regarding to her social status. However, none of those researches discuss the bicultural identity of the main character of the film and the issue appeared from being a bicultural individual. In conclusion, the writer takes the gap of those findings as the discussion of this thesis.

## **1.5 Methods of the Study**

### **1.5.1. Method of Research**

Method of research or research methods are the processes of gathering the data that is used for the analysis of the main issue (*'Research Methods: What Are Research Methods?'*). In writing this paper, the writer uses library research as the method of research, which is collecting the data from reference books, articles, journals, or websites. In library research process, there are two kinds of sources that might help to write a paper, those are primary sources and secondary sources. Primary sources are the authentic works, which represents original ideas or information, such as statistical data, manuscripts, works on art or literature, and others. Secondary sources are the studies by previous researchers, which evaluate the primary sources, for example books, journals, encyclopedias, reviews, and

others (*'Library Research Process'*). In this thesis, the writer collects the data from the film, journal articles, books, and websites.

### **1.5.2. Method of Approach**

In writing this thesis, the writer uses some approaches. To analyze the narrative aspects, the writer uses exponential approach. Guerin states, "Exponential approach deals with the inclusiveness of the term suggest at once the several meanings of motif, image, symbol and archetype." (1992:197). Also, the writer uses sociological approach to examine the extrinsic aspects of the film. X.J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia state that sociological criticism looks literature in the economic, cultural, and political factors in which it is composed or gotten (1995:1807).

## **1.6 Organization of the Study**

- Chapter I – Introduction, contains background of the study, scope of the study, objective of the study, previous studies, methods of the studies and organization of the study.
- Chapter II – The author's biography and summary, contains the summary of the film and the biography of the director of the film.
- Chapter III – Theoretical framework, contains the theories that are used to analyze the film
- Chapter IV – Analysis, contains the discussion of two main aspects, intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of the film.

Chapter V – Conclusion, contains the conclusion of the discussion.

## CHAPTER 2

### THE AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY AND THE SUMMARY

#### 2.1 The Author's Biography

According to Internet Movie Database (IMDb), Jon M. Chu, (in Chinese: *Zhū Hàowěi*) was born in Palo Alto, California, on November 2, 1979. His birth name is actually Jonathan Murray Chu. He is an American filmmaker, also, he directed so many films, short films, and television series. He is a Chinese descent, his mother, Ruth Chu, is a Taiwanese, and his father, Lawrence Chu, was born in Sichuan. His father is a widely-known chef which own a popular restaurant in Los Altos, named Chef Chu's. When he was a kid, he took classes in piano, drums, violin, saxophone, and guitar (*'Jon M. Chu Biography'*).

Based on Empire Online, he once attended Pinewood School since he was kindergarten until 12th grade. Then, he continued his study at the University of Southern California School of Cinema-Television. In USC, he got some awards from the Princess Grace Award, the Dore Schary Award by the Anti-Defamation league, and the Jack Nicholson directing award. Also, he was recognized as an honoree for the IFP/West program Project: Involve (*'Jon M Chu'*).

Also, according to Empire Online, after producing his student short project, *When the Kids Are Away*, Chu was offered to join in William Morris Agency and involved in some high profile projects. Then, afterwards, he was employed by Sony Pictures to direct their musical comedy film *Bye Bye Birdie*,

but the film is not given the permission to proceed because of the budget concerns. Then, Sony and Chu were getting back to the business by directing the new version of *The Great Gatsby*. In Sony's hand, that film did not run well, but then, Warner Bros. Pictures took over the film with Baz Luhrmann and purchased it, so *The Great Gatsby* develops into 2013 film. Chu is also involved in a dance crew called AC/DC or Adam/Chu Dance crew. He is frequently questioned why all his films have dance, and he answered that the dancers are artist, and they give him a motivation to make something creative ('Jon M Chu').

Based on Rotten Tomatoes, Chu directed several films, those are *Step Up 2: The Streets* (2008), *Step Up 3D* (2010), *Justin Bieber: Never Say Never* (2011), *G.I. Joe: Retaliation* (2013), *Justin Bieber's Believe* (2013), *Jem and the Holograms* (2015), *Now You See Me 2* (2016), *Crazy Rich Asians* (2018) and *In The Heights* (2020). Also, he produced some television series such as *The Legion of Extraordinary Dancers* (2010-2011) and *Good Trouble* (2019-present) and short films such as *Silent Beats* (2001) and *When the Kids Are Away* (2002). *Crazy Rich Asians* (2018) becomes his highest rated movie (93%) ('Jon M. Chu').

## **2.2 The Summary**

This film starts with a scene in London, 1995 where Young Family wants to stay overnight in a private hotel in London named Calthorpe. Mrs. Eleanor Young has reserved the Lancaster Suite room, but the receptionist says that there is no Mrs. Young's reservation on the list, so that she should find another hotel. Also, the hotel manager says that the rooms are fully booked, and he also makes

fun of Young family because they are Chinese. Out of annoyance, Mrs. Young phones his husband and tells him about the inconvenience she got from the hotel manager. At the end of the conflict, the hotel owner, Lord Calthorpe, appears and says that he sells his business to the Young family.

*Crazy Rich Asians* tells about a Chinese-American professor of economics in New York University, Rachel Chu, travels to Singapore with her boyfriend, Nick Young, to attend Nick best friend's wedding, Colin and Araminta. Besides, Nick wants to introduce Rachel to his big family. During her trip to Singapore, Rachel has no idea that Nick Young comes from a wealthy and rich family in Singapore. After arriving in Singapore, Rachel visits her friend when she was in college, Peik Lin, and she tells her about Nick Young. Peik Lin is shocked about her story, because Young family is the richest and prominent family in Singapore, and Rachel is dating with the son of Young family. Rachel does not have any idea about it, because she thinks that Nick Young is just a commoner. Peik Lin also warns her that Young family has a high society-lifestyle and be overly concerned about someone's social status, so they might consider Rachel to be the part of Young family.

At night, Rachel attends the dinner party in Nick grandmother's (Ah Ma) house. Peik Lin does her dress, because Peik Lin knows what is the best dress to impress Eleanor Young, which is Nick's mother. When Nick introduces Rachel to her, Eleanor sees Rachel as an American, because Rachel is such an independent girl who is trying to pursue her dream. She makes things by herself, which is quite different with Asian culture. Mostly, Asian parents want their children to fulfill

their desire and follow their way. The way Eleanor reposes Rachel is not quite good, but Nick convinces Rachel that it is only about timing.

At Araminta's bachelorette party, Rachel meets Amanda, Nick's ex girlfriend, who is being nice to her in the beginning. But then, Amanda actually wants to embarrass Rachel because Eleanor is not on her side. Also, the other girls vandalize Rachel's room by saying that Rachel is a gold-digger. This situation makes Rachel feel unworthy. But luckily, Astrid, Nick's cousin, is there to calm her down. Then, Astrid tells Rachel that his husband is having an affair, and Rachel tries to calm her. At Colin's bachelorette, Nick and Colin try to escape from the party arranged by Bernard and they decide to go to a quiet place. There, Nick reveals that she wants to propose Rachel as soon as possible, but Colin reminds him about his strict family.

After the bachelorette party, Rachel comes to Ah Ma's house to make dumplings. Here, Eleanor talks about her struggles for being the part of Young family and judging Rachel because she is an American. Eleanor says that the Chinese mostly put their family first over everything, while the Americans are busy chasing their passion instead of their family. Also, Eleanor privately tells Rachel that she is not enough to be Nick's wife and being a part of Young family because of her social status and her American culture. Eleanor assumes that she is not a purely Chinese, but a Chinese – American.

Rachel tells Peik Lin about what Eleanor said to her. Then, Peik Lin suggests her to do a retaliation. At the wedding day, Rachel comes to the church with a stunning gown, and she impresses everyone there. On the other hand,

Astrid confronts her husband about the affair he has done, and her husband said that it is all about economic level and status between them. Throughout the wedding, Eleanor and Ah Ma privately confront Rachel and Nick. Eleanor reveals the truth story about Rachel's father and her family, and it makes her shocked. Rachel's mother, Kerry, once said that Rachel's father is dead. Afterwards, Rachel is being so depressed and unwilling to speak to Nick. Kerry immediately takes a flight from New York to Singapore after being called by Nick, and explaining Rachel about the truth of their family. When Nick meets Rachel, he apologizes of what has happened and proposes Rachel.

Rachel plans to meet Eleanor at a Mahjong hall, to tell her that she refused Nick's proposal. While playing mahjong, Rachel reminds Eleanor that when Nick marries someone else, it is because of Rachel. On their mahjong game, Rachel beats her. Afterwards, Rachel decides to go back to New York with Kerry. When she is on board, Nick suddenly comes in to the plane and proposed her with Eleanor's ring, which is a sign that Eleanor gives her blessing to Rachel. Nick asks her to stay one more night in Singapore to celebrate their engagement, and at that time, Rachel gets her respect from Young family.



## CHAPTER 3

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In analyzing the discussion, the writer observes narrative aspects and cinematography elements of the film. The narrative aspects consist of intrinsic and extrinsic aspects. Intrinsic aspects consist of theme, character and characterization, setting and conflict. Meanwhile, extrinsic aspects consist of Chinese culture, American culture and Biculturalism, Bicultural Identity Integration and its impacts. On the other hand, the writer also analyzes the cinematography elements to make the discussion even clearer. Cinematography elements consist of camera shots, camera angles, sound and *mise en scene*.

#### **3.1. Narrative Aspects**

Narrative elements are the important parts of a literary work that form the whole work. Holman in his book *A Handbook to Literature* stated that narrative is “An account in prose or verse of an actual or fictional event or a sequence of such events: anything that is narrated.” (1936:336).

##### **3.1.1. Intrinsic Aspects**

###### **3.1.1.1. Theme**

Theme is the main idea or general idea of a literary work. It is a concept represented through the character, action, and image in the literary work (Holman, 1936:528). Basically, an author represented theme in his literary work through the main character.

### **3.1.1.2. Character and Characterization**

Mainly, character is a term used to refer to a person that does action in a story. Also, stated by Holman, character is a concise descriptive sketch of a personage who symbolizes some certain quality (1936:90). Meanwhile, Holman defined characterization as the creation of images of the nonexistent characters so sound that they exist for the reader as real in the limitation of the fiction (1936:91). Lyon (2004:7) split the characterization into 4 categories, which are the protagonist, the antagonist, major character and minor character. Protagonist is the main character that tries to reach the goals at the end of a story. Contrarily, antagonist is the opposite of protagonist. Antagonist has an equal power to the protagonist, but it prevents the protagonist to get his or her goals. Major characters are the characters that stand on the side of the protagonist or antagonist, and they may be developed but not as much as the protagonist. Minor characters are the characters that appear only in few times or many times and mostly they have small importance in the story.

### **3.1.1.3. Setting**

According to Holman (1936:491), setting is the condition that becomes the background of a story. The elements of the setting are the geographical location / place, the period that the story take place / time, and the general environment (Holman, 1936:491).

#### **3.1.1.3.1. Setting of place**

Setting of place is where the story / actions take place. It can be appeared in a region, such as in a country, city, etc. Furthermore, it also can be appeared in particular place such as at house, at school, etc.

#### **3.1.1.3.2. Setting of time**

Setting of time is when the story / actions sets. It can be described as hour, day, month, year, morning, night, etc.

#### **3.1.1.3.3. Setting of general environment**

Setting of the general environment related to the condition of the characters such as religious, social and emotional conditions.

#### **3.1.1.4. Conflict**

Conflict is the main point of a story, which contains the struggle of two or more character opposing in the plot. Conflict makes the story more interesting. Holman (1936:118) outlines four kinds of conflict that mostly the main character has to encounter, those are:

- a. the main character fights against the force of nature,
- b. the main character fights against other characters,
- c. the main character fights against the force of society,
- d. the main character fights against himself (inner conflict).

#### **3.1.2. Extrinsic Aspects**

##### **3.1.2.1. Chinese Culture**

The Chinese usually bring their own culture as their life-basis, which they learned those values from the ancestors. Also, they learned the Chinese

Culture from their family and school. The root of Chinese culture is basically from the concept of Confucianism (human relationship), Taoism (way of life), and Buddhism (religion) and those concepts are applied in their life (Wang, 1946:61). Those three concepts of life are philosophical teachings rather than religion (Fang, 2014:6). The Chinese hold these three concepts as a way to socialize with people and the universe. Not only in China, but the Chinese bring these values in everywhere they live at.

Confucianism is rooted on the Confucius teaching concerning social structures, human relationship, work ethics, and virtuous behavior (Fan, 2000:6). Confucianism rules regulate the whole individual's behavior and interactions in society. According to Fan (2000:6), Confucius in advance explained five basic human relationships and the tenets of each relation called *Wu Lun* as follows:

- a. Sovereign and subject – loyalty and duty
- b. Father and son – love and obedience
- c. Husband and wife – obligation and submission
- d. Elder and younger brother – seniority and modeling subject
- e. Friendship – reliance

Three of those five basic human relationships are the relationship within family, which shows that family in the Chinese culture and society is important. Also, the Confucius uses male version only in portraying the family relation indicates that Chinese society embrace the paternalism (Fan, 2000:6). Paternalism is defined as restricting a person's freedom from his or her desire for his or her good sake (Clarke, 2002:82). For more specific definition, Clarke stated that:

“*x* behaves paternalistically towards *y* (1) only if *x* aims to close an option that would otherwise be open to *y* or *x* chooses for *y* in the event that *y* is unable to choose for himself; and (2) to the extent that *x* does so in order to promote *y*’s good.”  
(Clarke, 2002:82)

The paternalism allows a person to be paternalistic, and another person becomes the one who is paternalised. In sum, because the Confucius teaching uses male version to portray the family relation, in this case, the male in the family becomes the one who is paternalistic, and the female is the one who is paternalised. In other words, the Chinese family sticks with patriarchy, as stated by Bruno S. Frey, “Families in China, as well as in other Asian Countries, have a patriarchal structure.” (1992:88). In patriarchal family, the male has dominant role. The Chinese men are commonly expected to be the economic pillars of their families (Hu, 2018:314).

In Confucianism, the highest moral teaching is humanity (*jen*), which the man of *jen* is expected to build his own character and helps others to reach their succeed (Wang, 1946:26). This concept of *jen* has two parts, the first part is the man himself and the second part is society. Family, as the basic institution, is at the middle point between the individual and the society, which becomes the training ground for the individual to adjust throughout life and society (Wang, 1946:26). In Chinese culture, it is necessary for the individual to accentuate family among others.

### **3.1.2.2. American Culture**

After the European expansion to America, so many people from around the world are interested to find a better living in America. Those immigrants

create heterogeneous society between them, and they live alongside adjusting each other and become an American. Later, these immigrants also influence the form of American culture, and the strongest influences came from the European cultures, dominantly from Germany, Ireland, and Britain. For instance, the English and Irish settlers led the use of English language (Doran & Littrell, 2013:3).

Doran & Littrell (2013:6) explains the Splinters' core American values as five major value orientations of American culture, which are:

- a. Personal freedom
- b. Individual rights
- c. Equality (equal in sexual equality and getting opportunity)
- d. The desirability of achievement by hard work
- e. Social mobility (anyone can enhance their social status because of their hard work)

### **3.1.2.3. Biculturalism, Bicultural Identity Integration, and Its Impacts**

The term biculturalism represents a person who can balance and intermix their traditional culture and the culture of the place (country or region) he has settled (Schwartz and Unger, 2010:26). Before discussing biculturalism even further, there are previous models of bicultural recognition rooted in acculturation research (Berry, 2013:57). Within the acculturation framework, there are four strategies of receiving-culture acquisition intersected by Berry (2013:58), which are *assimilation* (abandoning the heritage culture and seeking more interaction

with the dominant culture), *separation* (maintaining the heritage culture and discarding the receiving or dominant culture), *marginalization* (having less interest in maintaining the heritage culture and having low interaction with the dominant culture), and *integration* (maintaining the heritage culture and acquiring the receiving/dominant culture). The integration process of acculturation much represents biculturalism.

The immigrant groups are free to choose their own acculturation strategies. Although not all of the immigrant groups promote the integration process in acculturating culture, but by the fact in some societies, they still need to adjust themselves with the dominant culture in order to find work, make friends, and socialize with their surroundings. In other words, the immigrant groups may be forced to interact with the dominant culture yet still maintaining their heritage culture (Cabassa, 2003:135). In sum, some of the immigrant groups are bicultural because they can manage their traditional culture and the receiving culture, also feel comfortable being in both cultures (Schwartz and Unger, 2010:27).

In identifying the individual behavior as a bicultural, Benet-Martínez, Leu, Lee, and Morris (2002:493) have drawn a theoretical construct of Bicultural Identity Integration (BII) as a framework for examining and studying the individual differences focusing on the bicultural individual's perspective of how the intersection between their heritage culture and the receiving culture (Benet-Martínez & Haritatos, 2005:1019). BII is implementing to point out the degree to which the individuals see the traditional culture and the mainstream / receiving

culture as adaptable and easy to be integrated or oppositional and hard to be integrated (Meca et al., 2019:5-6).

These variations in the BII framework may affect the cultural frame switching process. Individuals with high level of BII are not having trouble or feel conflicted about their two cultural orientations, and feel easy to integrate those both cultures. Benet-Martínez et al. (2002:496) describe the East Asian American individuals high in BII will react the cultural frame switching in consistent ways. When they are engaged with U.S. cues, they will act in typically Western ways, when they are engaged with East Asian cues, they will act in typically East Asian ways. Individuals with low level of BII are seeing their two cultural orientations as oppositional to each other, and they will react to each cue differently. Although the individuals low in BII are still identified with both cultures, but they will see their two cultures as incompatible and causing internal conflict, and they feel like they have to choose one of those cultures (Benet-Martínez & Haritatos, 2005:1020).

According to Padilla (2018:192), the acculturation process influences the immigrant children or adolescents (second generation immigrants) more than their parents (first generation immigrants). Children and adolescents learn the new culture from the school and their peers, and later, they carry it to their parents rather than vice versa (Padilla, 2008:193). Moreover, the media brings a lot of the new things that these youth can learn from (Cheung & Swank, 2019:91). It means that they are more accomplished with the common culture in the U.S.



East Asian population in the U.S. becomes the largest sub-group of Asian American immigrants. The East Asian Americans (EEAs) consist of Taiwanese, Japanese, Korean, and Chinese, comprising around 40% of the total Asian American community (Lopez et al., 2017). According to Cheung and Swank (2019:91), the American culture is mainly individualist oriented, prioritizing individual freedom, and self-determination / sovereignty. Contrarily, the East Asian culture is mostly collectivist oriented which means prioritize the group over self, and rooted in Confucianism.

Additionally, according to Cheung and Swank (2019:91), the EEA youth also experienced the impact of being bicultural. For example, the bicultural EEA youth have a tendency of being independent from their family, and it can be considered as maturity in the U.S. culture's point of view, but recognized as an immaturity by the East Asian culture. Another instance, some of the bicultural EEA youth have experienced the racism, discrimination, and prejudice from the predominant society. Also, there is a possibility that they may get discrimination from members of their own culture, because they appear more American rather than from their original culture.

### **3.2. Cinematography Elements**

The word *cinematography* is originated from Greek “writing with motion”. According to Blain Brown in his book *Cinematography Theory and Practice: Image Making for Cinematographers and Directors Second Edition*, cinematography is more than a simple act of photography, furthermore, it is a

process of taking notions, words, activities, emotional subtext, tone and all other types of nonverbal communication and delivering them in visual term (2012:2). Cinematography involves tools and certain methods techniques. Also, cinematography consists so many aspects in order to make a good visualization. In this thesis, the writer uses camera shots and camera angles to analyze the film.

### **3.2.1. Camera Shots**

Camera shots are one of the most main parts in building a scene in filmmaking. Camera shots are the visual aspects of film and only focus on the visual side of the subject (Brown, 2012:17). The writer uses four types of camera shots, which are:

#### **3.2.1.1. Wide Shot (long shot)**

Wide shot in a scene-taking shows the entire scene / objects, as stated by Brown, "... we are clearly talking about a big panoramic scene done with a short focal length lens taking in all the eye can see." (2012:17). This kind of shot gives the whole information about the scene to the audience.

#### **3.2.1.2. Full Shot**

Full shot shows the audience the full body of the character from head to toe. Full shot also can be applied to an object like a car, which shows the full body of a car (Brown, 2012:20).

#### **3.2.1.3. Medium Shot**

Medium shot takes closer than full shot, which shows the action, the expressions of the characters, and the details of the characters' appearance. Medium shot is usually taken from the waist up (Brown, 2012:20).

#### **3.2.1.4. Close-up Shot**

Close-up shot is generally taken from head to the shirt pockets of the character. However, there are several types of close-up shot, which are medium close-up (taken from mid-chest up), choker (taken from the throat up), big head close-up (taken from under the chin and cutting off a little part of the head), and extreme close-up (taken varies but generally only eyes and mouth) (Brown, 2012:21).

#### **3.2.2. Camera Angles**

Practically, the camera positions, or called camera angles, may be placed anywhere. Basically, camera angles have three general positions, which are straight-on angle, high angle, and low angle (Bordwell & Thompson, 2009:874).

##### **3.2.2.1. Straight-on Angle**

Straight-on angle is the most common camera position in taking a scene (Bordwell and Thompson, 2009:874). It is also called eye-level angle, because the camera is positioned as high as human eye-point. Generally, straight-on angle is used for neutral scenes and factual programs (Baranowski & Hecht, 2017:2).

##### **3.2.2.2. High Angle**

The high angle is taken from above the eye level, and makes the audience looking down the frame (Bordwell and Thompson, 2009:874). This position makes the character looks powerless and weak (Baranowski & Hecht, 2017:2).

##### **3.2.2.3. Low Angle**

The low angle makes the audience look up within the camera frame (Bordwell & Thompson, 2009:874) because it is taken below the human eye-point.

Also, this perspective makes the character look strong, larger, and powerful (Baranowski & Hecht, 2017:2).

### **3.2.3. Sound**

Sound is regularly used as a complement to an image. It builds up the sense of the image. Before recorded sound was found in 1926, silent films were accompanied by music instrument such as piano and orchestra. Sound in the cinema is split into three categories, which are speech, music, and noise (Bordwell & Thompson, 2009:1258). In this thesis, the writer uses the speech sound to analyze the dialogue between each character in the *Crazy Rich Asians* film.

#### **3.2.3.1. Speech sound (Dialogue)**

Dialogue helps the audience to understand the story information, so that the dialogue is usually produced in uttermost definition (Bordwell & Thompson, 2009:1260).

### **3.2.4. Mise En Scene**

*Mise en scene* is everything that appears in the camera frame. It concludes setting, lighting, costume and makeup, and behavior of the characters (Bordwell & Thompson, 2009:533). In this thesis, the writer focuses on the analysis of the character's costume and makeup. Costume and makeup have particular function in the whole film. Costume determines the characters and represents the situation and background of the characters, such as the era, culture, etc. Besides costume, the character's makeup also emphasizes the facial expression. Makeup helps to hide the cruel details such as blemishes and wrinkles (Bordwell & Thompson, 2009:567-578).

## CHAPTER 4

### ANALYSIS

#### 4.1. Intrinsic Aspects

##### 4.1.1. Theme

After watching the film, the writer sees two main themes in the *Crazy Rich Asians* film, which are ethnic identity and social class. Those two themes are clearly shown up in almost each scene, starting from Rachel Chu and Nick Young heading to Singapore to attend Araminta and Colin's wedding. Rachel Chu, who considered as Chinese-American, is not accepted by Nick's mother, Eleanor Young, because she has different cultural background with the Chinese who live in Asia. Besides, Rachel's social status and family background is mattered for Eleanor, because Young Family is the wealthiest family in Singapore.

##### 4.1.2. Character and Characterization

In this thesis, the characters are divided into four categories, which are protagonist, antagonist, major characters and minor characters.

###### 4.1.2.1. Protagonist

The protagonist in the *Crazy Rich Asians* film is the main character, Rachel Chu. The storyline in this film is mostly focusing on Rachel Chu's side, including her personal life and the problems she is facing. Although there are some scenes showing Astrid Leong-Teo's personal conflict with her husband, Michael Teo, but the whole story of the film is centered on Rachel Chu.

As a protagonist, Rachel tries to reach her goals, which are getting Eleanor Young's blessing on her relationship with Nick Young and marrying him. After passing so many obstacles, at the end, she proves that she is all worthy and gets what she genuinely desired of.

In the film, Rachel Chu is depicted as a smart and intelligent person. It is shown in a scene when Rachel is teaching game theory in a class, captured in picture 4-1, shot from wide / long shot to show the situation of the class. Moreover, she introduced herself as an economics professor in New York University to Goh family in minute 00:29:40 – 00:29:53 and Eleanor Young in minute 00:39:31 – 00:39:35.



(Picture 4-1)

Mrs. Goh : So, Rachel, what you do in America?  
Rachel Chu : Um, I'm an economics professor.  
Mr. Goh : Who, very impressive. Econ professor, eh? Wow, you must be very smart. Good for you.  
(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:29:40 – 00:29:53)

Eleanor Young : Nick tells me you're a professor too. What do you teach?  
Rachel Chu : Um, I teach economics.  
(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:39:31 – 00:39:35)

Also, another evidence is when she talks to Princess Intan in Araminta and Colin's wedding about Princess Intan's economic article, shown in picture 4-2 and dialogue in minute 1:23:50 – 1:24:19. The scene is taken with medium shot

combine with straight-on angle, showing the intimacy of Princess Intan and Rachel Chu while discussing the economic article.



(Picture 4-2)

Rachel Chu : Princess Intan? Rachel Chu. I've read your great article about microloans in the Asian Economics Journal.

Princess Intan : I received so much criticism about that article.

Rachel Chu : Well, you know what? I think your critics missed the point. Cause your microloans helped women, and women lift up economies.

Princess Intan : What is your name again?

Rachel Chu : Rachel Chu.

Princess Intan : It's a pleasure to meet you. Now, what brings you here?

Rachel Chu : I followed a boy...

(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:23:50 – 1:24:19)

The smart and intelligent characters are depicted in the sentence, “I think your critics missed the point. Cause your microloans helped women, and women lift up economies.” The way Rachel sees the good point on Princess Intan’s journal proves that she learns much about the journal. Meanwhile, Princess Intan slightly ignores Rachel at first, but then she starts giving her attention to Rachel after Rachel tells her opinion about the journal, shows in the sentence, “What is your name again?” Also, it shows that Princess Intan is interested to Rachel. This scene proves that Rachel does not need to be seen as someone who has a high social status to be respected by people, but by the intelligence, people will undoubtedly put their honor to her.

Another characterization of Rachel Chu is brave. Rachel has the courage to stand against the people who are disrespecting her, particularly Eleanor Young. The first evidence is when Rachel gets the bullying from Amanda Ling and other Araminta's friends when they are in Araminta's bachelorette party. Araminta's friends put a dead-bloody fish in the Rachel's bed and a writing on the windows says "catch this you gold digging bitch", shown in picture 4-3. This scene is shot from medium shot with straight-on angle to give the details of the mess.



(Picture 4-3)

Astrid Leong-Teo : I'll call security...  
Rachel Chu : No. I'm not gonna make a scene. I'm not gonna give them the satisfaction.  
(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:02:34 – 1:03:44)

Astrid offers Rachel to call a security to help her but Rachel decides to clear it up by herself (helped by Astrid), as she says, "No, I'm not gonna make a scene." This sentence proves that Rachel has the bravery to face the problem by herself because she does not want make a scene in front of people.

The second evidence is seen in the conversation between Rachel and Peik Lin in the scene in minute 1:14:33 – 1:16:47. In that scene, Rachel has the willingness not to attend the Colin and Araminta's wedding because Eleanor hates her, as she says to Peik Lin, "I feel like I shouldn't even go to the wedding. You know, it's Colin and Araminta's day, I don't wanna cause any drama there."



(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:15:27 – 1:15:32). But, Peik Lin convinces Rachel to keep going and shows everyone her power, which is her intelligence, as seen in her dialogue, “When in reality, you’re like a super sophisticated, smart professor of freaking game theory. Show her that side of you, you know.” (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:16:08 – 1:16:15). After hearing that, Rachel’s courage starts to increase as she says to Peik Lin, “Yeah, she’s like trying to play a game of chicken with me, where she’s like coming at me, and like, thinking I’m going to swerve like a chicken.” (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:16:20 – 1:16:26). Her courage to face Eleanor is peaked when she says, “I’m not gonna swerve. Not for her.” (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:16:28).

The last evidence is Rachel finally comes to the point that she decides to leave her relationship with Nick. She utters her willingness to Eleanor when she invites Eleanor to play Mahjong.

Rachel Chu	: Well, he proposed to me yesterday. He said he’d walk away from his family and from you, for good. Don’t worry, I turned him down.
Eleanor Young	: Only a fool folds a winning hand
Rachel Chu	: There’s no winning. You made sure of that. Because if Nick chose me, he would lose his family. And if he chose his family, he might spend the rest of his life resenting you.
Eleanor Young	: So you chose for him.
Rachel Chu	: I’m not leaving ‘cause I’m scared or because I think I’m not enough. Because maybe for the first time in my life, I know who I am.

(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:44:21 – 1:45:36)

Rachel’s dialogue, “I’m not leaving ‘cause I’m scared or because I’m not enough. Because maybe for the first time in my life, I know who I am.” proves that Rachel has the courage to sacrifice her relationship for Nick’s good.

#### 4.1.2.2. Antagonist

The antagonist character in the *Crazy Rich Asians* film is Eleanor Young. Eleanor Young is depicted as a conservative person. Eleanor has a strong belief in the Chinese culture that Chinese children's future is shaped by their parents, not by the children's willingness, as seen in the dialogue between Eleanor and Rachel Chu in minute 00:40:21-00:40:33.

“Pursuing one's passions. How American. Well, your mother is very open-minded, not like here, where parents are obsessed with shaping the life of their children.”  
(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:40:21 – 00:40:33)

The sentence, “... not like here, where parents are obsessed with shaping the life of their children.” proves that Eleanor holds the Confucianism teaching about family, which family has the important role in shaping the children so the children will have a good life in society. This proves that Eleanor is a conservative person because she still believes the traditional values rather than follows the modern lifestyle.

Another evidence is in the scene when Rachel invites Eleanor to play Mahjong. Eleanor cannot accept Rachel to be the part of her family because Rachel is different from her people.

Rachel Chu : I know Nick told you the truth about my mom. But you didn't like me the second I got here. Why is that?  
Eleanor Young : There's a Hokkien phrase *ka gi lan*. It means, our own kind of people. And you're not our own kind.  
(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:43:27 – 1:43:44)

The conservative character is depicted in her dialogue, “There's a Hokkien phrase *ka gi lan*. It means, our own kind of people. And you're not our

own kind.” This sentence shows that Eleanor sees Rachel as foreigner and has many differences from her people. Eleanor’s way of thinking is rooted in the Chinese traditional teaching, and she does not open her mind about other cultures.

Other characterizations of Eleanor Young are contemptuous and arrogant person. It is proven when she says, “... but having been through it all, I know this much. You will never be enough.” to Rachel (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:13:00 – 1:13:13). In this scene, Eleanor is underestimating Rachel. She thinks that Rachel will never be good enough for her son, Nick, and she compares Rachel to her who has been through a lot of sacrifices to marry Nick’s father. This scene proves that Eleanor is arrogant.

The second evidence is shown in the scene when Eleanor attends the Araminta and Colin’s wedding at the church. While looking at the wedding decoration, she expresses her impression about it by asking, “Is this a church or a paddy field?” (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:22:33). The writer sees from the dialogue that Eleanor is being sarcastic and contemptuous because the church is full of plants and grasses as the wedding decoration, which can be seen in picture 4-4. This scene is taken with full shot and high angle to show the whole decoration.



Picture 4-4

The last evidence is shown in the scene when Rachel invites Eleanor to play Mahjong at a Mahjong hall.

Eleanor Young : You're a foreigner. American. And all Americans think about is their own happiness.  
 Rachel Chu : Don't you want Nick to be happy?  
 Eleanor Young : It's an illusion. We understand how to build things that last. Something you know nothing about.  
 Rachel Chu : You don't know me.  
 Eleanor Young : I know you're not what Nick needs.  
 (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:43:53 – 1:44:16)

Eleanor's sentence, "We understand how to build things that last. Something you know nothing about." proves that Eleanor is underestimating Rachel. Eleanor has the opinion that Rachel knows nothing about the Chinese teaching and culture because Rachel lives in America. Also, Eleanor assumes that the American knows nothing about the hard work and sacrifices done by the Chinese because the American is only pursuing happiness, as she states, "And all Americans think about is their own happiness." This evidence proves that she is an arrogant person.

#### **4.1.2.3. Major Character**

The major characters are the characters that stand beside the protagonist or antagonist, and become protagonist and antagonist's alliance. The major characters of the protagonist are Nick Young, Peik Lin and Astrid Leong-Teo. Meanwhile, the major character of the antagonist is Amanda Ling.

Nick Young is characterized as a family man and humble. The implementation of the family man character is shown in the dialogue between Nick and Eleanor in minute 00:47:42 – 00:47:56.

Eleanor Young : You know, bringing her home, introducing her at a large family gathering, some people may say...  
 Nick Young : When there's something to say about Rachel and me, you'll be the first to hear.

*(Crazy Rich Asians, 00:47:42 – 00:47:56)*

Nick's sentence, "When there's something to say about Rachel and me, you'll be the first to hear." proves that Nick prioritizes his mother and let his mother knows everything about him before anyone else. Also, this kind of character is seen in the dialogue in minute 1:13:45 – 1:14:17.

Nick Young : I know my mom can be tough at times, but there isn't anything she wouldn't do for me. And there's a reason why I lived with Ah Ma growing up. It's because my mother knew she wasn't the favorite. So she let her raise me so I would be.

Rachel Chu : You were just a kid?

Nick Young : Yeah. But... it's hard to understand from the outside. But she did what she thought was best for the family, for everyone involved.

*(Crazy Rich Asians, 1:13:45 – 1:14:17)*

In this dialogue, Nick tries to defend his mother and telling the good things about his mother, proven in the sentences, "... but there isn't anything she wouldn't do for me." and "But she did what she thought was best for the family, for everyone involved." As a good child, Nick tries to convince Rachel that everything Eleanor does is the best for Nick's family. This scene proves that Nick really loves his mother.

The humble character of Nick Young is shown in the dialogue between Rachel and Nick in minute 00:12:55 – 00:13:28.

Rachel Chu : So your family is like, rich?

Nick Young : Uh, we're comfortable.

Rachel Chu : That is exactly what a super rich person would say. It's not a big deal, obviously. I just think it's kind of weird that I had no idea. I mean, you have a Jamba Juice card, you use my Netflix password. You play basketball at that Y that kind of smells.

Nick Young : I really like that place, thank you very much. And yes, my family has money, but I've always thought of it as theirs, not mine.  
(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:12:55 – 00:13:28)

Nick's humility is seen from the sentence, "... we're comfortable." He knows that his family is rich, but he does not show it off to Rachel and he chooses the word 'comfortable' to describe his family situation. Also, the sentence, "... but I've always thought of it as theirs, not mine." proves that Nick does not glorify the money his family gave to him, because he thinks the money belongs to his parents, not him.

Peik Lin, Rachel Chu's best friend, is characterized as a loyal friend. They have been friends since they were in college, proven in the dialogue between Peik Lin's father, Mr. Goh and Rachel in minute 00:28:25 – 00:28:43.

Mr. Goh : Uh, uh, uh, Rachel Chu, we are so, uh, grateful for all the help you have given my, uh, Peik Lin back in her uni days. I mean, without you, uh, she would be a hot mess.  
Rachel Chu : Oh my God, no. Actually, if it wasn't for her, I'd be a big mess. She was a huge help to me in college. It's nice to meet you, Mr. Goh.  
(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:28:25 – 00:28:43)

Besides, Peik Lin always helps Rachel when Rachel is in trouble. For instance, Peik Lin helps Rachel to find the proper dress to attend the Young family's Tan Hua party, proven in picture 4-5, and drives her to Ah-ma's house, proven in picture 4-6. Both scenes are taken with medium shot and straight-on angle to take a closer look of the facial expression.



Picture 4-5



Picture 4-6

Another instance is Peik Lin, together with Oliver, helps Rachel to get the most beautiful and suitable dress for attending the Araminta and Colin's wedding, proven in picture 4-7, which taken with full shot and straight-on angle to give the whole look of the Rachel's dress, and drives her to the wedding, proven in picture 4-8, which taken with medium shot and straight-on angle, focusing on Oliver T'Sien, Rachel Chu and Peik Lin.



Picture 4-7



Picture 4-8

Also, Peik Lin shows her loyalty by giving Rachel emotional support. For instance, in the scene in minute 1:16:08, Peik Lin gives Rachel a compliment by saying, "When in reality, you're like a super sophisticated, smart professor of freaking game theory. Show her that side of you, you know." (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:16:08 – 1:16:15). As a good friend, Peik Lin tries to encourage Rachel that Rachel has to stand for herself because she has the good side everyone should know and see.

Astrid Leong-Teo, Nick's cousin, is considered as the major character of the protagonist because Rachel and her build a strong chemistry in the film. It is seen in several scenes, the first is when Nick takes Rachel to meet his cousins, and

Astrid gives a warm welcome by hugging Rachel, proven in picture 4-9. This scene is taken with medium shot and straight-on angle to focus on the facial expression.



Picture 4-9

The second one is when Astrid tells Rachel about her husband's affair in Araminta's bachelorette party. In that scene, Astrid is laying her head on Rachel's shoulder and Rachel is holding her hand, proven in picture 4-10. This scene is taken with medium shot and straight-on angle to show the strong chemistry between both characters.



Picture 4-10

Astrid is characterized as a humble and caring person, which is shown in the scene when Astrid comes to a jewelry store and greets a little girl who brings a doll.

Astrid Leong-Teo : Hi, I'm Astrid. What's your name?  
Little girl : Vita.  
Astrid Leong-Teo : And who's this?  
Little girl : Bun-Bun.  
Astrid Leong-Teo : Well, I think Bun-Bun looks very dashing with his bow. You have a good eye.



Little girl : Thank you.  
(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:15:48 – 00:16:02)

The way Astrid gives a compliment to a strange kid, “Well, I think Bun-Bun looks very dashing with his bow. You have a good eye.” shows that Astrid cares about other people. Also, her humble character is shown in the scene when her husband, Michael, says to her, “... You can buy whatever you want. I get it. Besides, everybody knows you wear the money pants in this family.” and Astrid replies, “Pants are overrated.” (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:24:48 – 00:24:56). Her sentence, “Pants are overrated.” shows that Astrid respects Michael.

The last is Amanda Ling. However, Amanda Ling stands for the antagonist, Eleanor Young. It is proven in a scene when Amanda reveals to Rachel that she is Nick’s ex girlfriend and saying that Eleanor Young wants Amanda and Nick to get married, which proven in Amanda’s dialogue, “Nick told you that we were together, right? It’s ancient history now. Although our families, particularly his mother, always wanted us to get married, I guess we weren’t ready then.” (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:00:08 – 1:00:23). Amanda tries to make Rachel jealous by telling her closeness to Eleanor by saying, “Although our families, particularly his mother, always wanted us to get married,”.

Besides, she is characterized as a hypocrite and shifty person. It is seen in some scenes when Amanda introduces herself to Rachel as the Young family’s lawyer and being very kind to Rachel at first, proven in picture 4-11. But then, she arranges a bad intention with some of her friends to make Rachel feel annoyed,

proven in picture 4-12. Both of the scenes are taken with medium shot and straight-on angle to show the facial expression.



Picture 4-11



Picture 4-12

#### 4.1.2.4. Minor Characters

Besides major characters, there are minor characters that have less significance in the story than the major characters, and can be appeared only few times or many times. Although having less significance, these characters still give the impact to the main character. The writer considers two characters that become the minor characters, which are Kerry Chu and Oliver T'Sien.

Rachel Chu's mother, Kerry Chu, is considered as minor character because she only appears several times in the film, the first is in the scene when Rachel and Kerry is in a boutique, proven in picture 4-13, the second is when Kerry comes to Peik Lin's house in Singapore, proven in picture 4-14, the third is when Kerry accompanies Rachel to meet Eleanor at the Mahjong hall, proven in picture 4-15, and the last one is when Rachel and Kerry are in the plane, proven in picture 4-16. Also, her role in the film is not really significance because she only appears in the beginning and at the end of the story, and she is not involved in the climax.



Picture 4-13



Picture 4-14



Picture 4-15



Picture 4-16

Kerry Chu is characterized as a supportive mother and hard worker. The implementation of the supportive character is in the scene when Kerry supports her daughter to go to Singapore with Nick Young, as she says in minute 0:10:31 – 0:10:42, “Oh, you are going to have a wonderful time. You’ve always wanted to go to Asia and who knows, if all goes well in Singapore, you might just come back with a souvenir.” (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 0:10:31 – 0:10:42). The implication of the hard worker character is proved in the scene when Rachel tells Eleanor about Kerry in the dialogue in minute 00:39:51 – 00:40:08.

“... my mom didn’t even go to college. She actually hardly spoke any English when she immigrated to the United States. But she worked really hard, and she studied, and she earned her real estate license while she was waiting tables to support us. Now, she likes to say that she’s Flushing’s top real estate broker.  
(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:39:51 – 00:40:08)

The second one is Oliver T’Sien. Oliver is considered as the minor character because his roles in the story are not really significance, but his important job is to help the main character in several scenes. For instance, he accompanies Rachel in Tan Hua party when Nick has to change his clothes, proven in picture 4-17. Also, he helps Rachel to dress up to Araminta and Colin’s

wedding, proven in picture 4-18. Both of the scenes are taken with medium shot and straight-on angle.



Picture 4-17



Picture 4-18

### 4.1.3. Setting

#### 4.1.3.1. Setting of place

The *Crazy Rich Asians* film is taken in five main places. The first place is London, specifically in the Calthorpe Hotel, shown in picture 4-19. The second place is New York, shown in picture 4-20. The third place is Singapore, shown in picture 4-21. The fourth is on international waters, where Colin's bachelorette party takes place, shown in picture 4-22. The last one is Samsara Island, Malaysia, where Araminta's bachelorette party takes place, shown picture 4-23.



Picture 4-19



Picture 4-20



Picture 4-21



Picture 4-22



Picture 4-23

All of the place's names are clearly written on the screen, also defined with the background. For instance, in picture 4-19, the background shows a hotel building, indicates the Calthorpe Hotel. The hotel building is taken in full shot from low angle, to point out the hotel's majesty. In picture 4-20, the background shows the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City with the night view of New York City. The view is taken in wide shot with high angle to show the city from above. In picture 4-21, the background shows the Marina Bay Sands that becomes the Singapore's most iconic hotel. This scene is taken in wide shot with high angle to show the whole city of Singapore. In picture 4-22, the ocean in the background indicates the international waters, taken in wide shot with high angle. In picture 4-23, the background shows the Samsara Island, taken in wide shot with high angle to point out the coastline and the tropical forest.

#### **4.1.3.2. Setting of time**

In the storyline of *Crazy Rich Asians* film, there are two sets of time. The film begins in 1995, which is proven in picture 4-19, portraying the young Nick and his family when they have a holiday in London. The second is in 2018, which proven in picture 4-20, showing the current time where the actual story starts.

#### **4.1.3.3. Setting of the general environment**

The general environment of *Crazy Rich Asians* film is the lifestyle of the upper-class Chinese families in Singapore. Relate to the title of the film itself, the

storyline is highlighting the riches of the Chinese families in Singapore, in this case, described by Young family and Goh family. In the beginning of the film, the scene shows the Young family affords to buy the Calthorpe hotel, as said by Lord Calthorpe in minute 00:02:51 – 00:03:11:

“As of this evening, my family’s long history as custodians of the Calthorpe is ended. I am selling the hotel to my dear friends, the Young family of Singapore. Meet the new lady of the house, Eleanor Young.”  
(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:02:51 – 00:30:11)

Another one, the film points out the upper-class lifestyle in the scene when Astrid Leong-Teo purchases the expensive earrings, proven in picture 4-24 and hides all of her luxury purchases from her husband, proven in picture 4-25. These scenes prove that it is convenient for people from the upper class to get everything they want, because they afford it.



Picture 4-24



Picture 4-25

Another representation of the upper-class family is Goh family. Goh family has a big house with European style for its interior design, proven in picture 4-26, also stated by Mrs. Goh, “We were inspired by the Hall of Mirror in Versailles.” (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:28:03). Moreover, Peik Lin has a walking closet in her room that contains a lot of clothes and shoes, proven in picture 4-27. Another proof, Peik Lin owns a luxury car, shown in the scene when she drives Rachel to Ah Ma’s house, proven in picture 4-28.



Picture 4-26



Picture 4-27



Picture 4-28

#### **4.1.4. Conflict**

##### **4.1.4.1. Internal conflict**

The internal conflict is a conflict occurs within the character's self. In other words, internal conflict happens when the character fights against himself. In this discussion, the writer focuses on Rachel Chu's internal conflict, which she has to decide whether keeping her relationship with Nick Young or not. As Rachel states to her mother, Kerry, "I really thought he was the one. Now I just wanna go home." (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:39:13), it proves that she really loves Nick but she also gives up on her relationship because she knows that she cannot be accepted by Nick's family and she knows her worth. But then, this leads to a decision that she takes step back, as she tells to Nick's mother, Eleanor, "I'm not leaving 'cause I'm scared, or because I think I'm not enough, because maybe for the first time in my life, I know who I am." (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:45:24 – 1:45:36).

#### 4.1.4.2. External conflict

The external conflict includes the conflict between the main character and the force of nature, the conflict between the main character and other characters and the conflict between the main character and society. The main conflict of *Crazy Rich Asians* film is between Rachel Chu and Eleanor Young.

From the beginning of the story, Eleanor Young has subtly expressed her aversion towards Rachel. It is proven in the dialogue in minute 00:09:24 – 00:09:43 between Eleanor and Nick on the phone.

Eleanor Young : We're looking forward to having you home. And your room is all ready for you.  
Nick Young : Thanks mom, but Rachel and I will be staying together.  
Eleanor Young : I see. Well I'm having the house redone, and it's not ready for guest. If Rachel comes, I think she might be more comfortable staying somewhere else.  
(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:09:24 – 00:09:43)

From the dialogue above, it indicates that Eleanor do not want Rachel to stay in her home by saying, "... it's not ready for guest." and "I think she might be more comfortable staying somewhere else." It indicates that Eleanor feels uncomfortable with Rachel's presence. She wants Rachel to stay at hotel instead. The conflict starts to open up when Eleanor is straightforwardly saying her aversion to Rachel in the dialogue in minute 1:12:42 – 1:13:11.

Eleanor Young : It took many years, and she had good reason to be concerned, because I had no idea the work and the sacrifice it would take. There were many days when I wondered if I would ever measure up. But having been through it all, I know this much. You will never be enough.  
(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:12:42 – 1:13:11)



Later on, the climax of the conflict is when Eleanor finds out that Rachel's mother, Kerry Chu, was having an affair in her marriage and Rachel's father is still alive. In Araminta and Colin's wedding party, Eleanor shows Rachel and Nick the evidences she got from the investigator about Rachel's family background. It is proven in the dialogue in minute 1:32:30 – 1:33:17.

Eleanor Young : I'm sorry to tell you but Rachel has been lying to us about her family and her mother.  
 Rachel Chu : What are you talking about?  
 Eleanor Young : I hired a private investigator...  
 Nick Young : Mum, you didn't.  
 Eleanor Young : ... to look in to her past. She said her father passed away in China...  
 Nick Young : Mum!  
 Eleanor Young : ... but that's not true! Your mother's husband is very much alive. During her marriage, she cheated on him and became pregnant with another man's child and before he found out she ran away to America. It's all in here.  
 Nick Young : You had no right...  
 Eleanor Young : We had every right.  
 Rachel Young : Stop, you're lying.  
 Nick Young : You did not!  
 Eleanor Young : Do you have any idea the scandal this would have caused for Rachel to hide something like this?  
 Nick Young : She wouldn't have.  
 Eleanor Young : We cannot be linked to this sort of family.  
 Rachel Chu : I don't want any part of your family.  
 (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:32:30 – 1:33:17)

Eleanor assumes Rachel is lying about her father to Young family because previously, Rachel says to Eleanor that her father was died, proven in the scene 00:39:49, "Well, my dad actually died before I was born..." (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:39:49), whereas, Eleanor found out that Rachel's father is still alive as she states in the dialogue above, "Your mother's husband is very much alive." The fact that Rachel is an illegitimate child makes Eleanor so

furious, depicted in the sentence, “We cannot be linked to this sort of family.” This sentence makes Rachel so offended, and she counters Eleanor by saying, “I don’t want any part of your family.”

After all she had heard, Rachel is so depressed that she does not want to do anything except laying on the bed. Picture 4-29, which is taken with medium shot and straight-on angle, shows her depressed face. Rachel really has no idea about the fact that her father is still alive, proven in the scene in minute 1:37:20 when she asks to Kerry, “Why didn’t you tell me about my father?” (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:37:20) because, all she knows is her father died before she was born.



Picture 4-29

The conflict between Eleanor and Rachel comes to an end when Rachel invites Eleanor to play mahjong at a Mahjong hall. There, Rachel makes a clearance about the reason why Eleanor dislikes her.

Rachel Chu	: I know Nick told you the truth about my mom. But you didn’t like me the second I got here. Why is that?
Eleanor Young	: There is a Hokkien phrase <i>ka gi lan</i> . It means, our own kind of people. And you’re not our own kind.
Rachel Chu	: Because I’m not rich? Because I didn’t go to a British boarding school, or I wasn’t born into a wealthy family?
Eleanor Young	: You’re a foreigner. American. And all Americans think about is their own happiness.
Rachel Chu	: Don’t you want Nick to be happy?

Eleanor Young : It's an illusion. We understand how to build things that last. Something you know nothing about.  
(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:43:25 – 1:44:06)

It is clear in the dialogue that the reason why Eleanor hates Rachel is because Rachel is a Chinese American, and Eleanor thinks she is different with the Chinese who are living in Asia, as shown in Eleanor's sentences, "You're not our own kind." and "You're a foreigner. American." Moreover, Eleanor assumes Rachel is only pursuing happiness, depicted in the sentence, "... all Americans think about is their own happiness." It contradicts her understanding about happiness that it does not last long, as she states, "It's an illusion. We understand how to build things that last." In sum, the main reason why Eleanor dislikes Rachel is because Rachel has different principle and way of thinking with Eleanor.

## **4.2. Extrinsic Aspects**

### **4.2.1. Bicultural Individual**

As explained in previous chapter, bicultural individuals have to deal with two cultures, which are their heritage culture and receiving culture, in their everyday life. The main character of *Crazy Rich Asians* film, Rachel Chu, becomes the representation of the bicultural individual, because she is a Chinese-American. In this thesis, the writer analyzes the bicultural side of Rachel Chu and its impact.

Rachel's mother, Kerry Chu, ran away from China to America to avoid her husband and took Rachel with her, and starting their new life in New York, as Kerry states in minute 1:37:33:

“My husband wasn't a good man. He hurt me. But an old schoolmate of mine helped me through things and we fell in love and I got pregnant with his baby, that's you. I was so afraid my husband would find out and kill us both, so I just took you and I ran to America.”  
(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:37:33 – 1:38:05)

The sentence, “... so I just took you and I ran to America.” proves that Rachel has lived in America since she was a kid. It means that Rachel certainly acquires more American culture and values rather than her original culture, and it makes Rachel's way of thinking is quite different with the Chinese who lived in Asia. Nevertheless, Kerry teaches her about Chinese values as well to remind her where she came from. In short, Rachel holds two different cultures in her self, which called as bicultural individual.

Rachel Chu applies some American values in herself. For instance, she uses her personal freedom to pursue her dream and passion. Rachel is the youngest economics professor in New York University, as stated by Nick Young, “And she's brilliant. NYU's youngest faculty member.” (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:39:38). Becoming a professor at a young age proves that Rachel achieves her dream earnestly, and proves that she is smart and well educated. Moreover, her mother allows her to do what she is passionate about and support her, as stated by Rachel, “Well, she knows that I'm passionate about what I do, and she's always wanted that for me.” (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:40:16) so that Rachel has the

freedom to be what she wants to be. Moreover, Rachel Chu shows that women also have the power to reach their dream and equal to men in getting opportunities.

There are several other examples as the proofs that Rachel is influenced by the American culture. There are some scenes when she calls Peik Lin's parents 'Mr. and Mrs. Goh' instead of 'uncle and aunty' at the first time they met. Rachel also calls Eleanor 'Mrs. Young' instead of 'aunty'. The East Asian people are used to call a married man and woman with 'uncle and aunty' whereas, in America, the people call the married man and woman using the honorific term 'Mr. and Mrs.'. Also, Rachel admits to Eleanor that she is still learning about it, as she says, "Oh my gosh! I, I'm so happy to meet you, Mrs. Young. Or, uh, Auntie. Right? I'm learning the lingo." (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:39:12 – 00:39:21). Besides, Rachel has a great American accent.

On the other side, Rachel recognizes herself as a Chinese, as seen in the dialogue between her and Kerry in minute 00:10:54 – 00:11:11:

Rachel Chu : What was that look? I saw that.  
Kerry Chu : Nothing. It's just, Nick bringing a girl all the way here to meet them can mean a lot to these overseas families. They're different from us.  
Rachel Chu : How are they different? They're Chinese, I'm Chinese. I'm so Chinese, I'm an economics professor with lactose intolerance.  
(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:10:54 – 00:11:11)

From the dialogue above, the way Rachel claims her self as a Chinese proves that she tries to embrace her original culture. Although she grows in American

surrounding, she still applies the Chinese teaching and values learned from her mother in her life.

There are some evidences showing that Rachel holds her original culture, the first is shown in a scene when Rachel and Kerry find a dress for Rachel so that Rachel can make a good impression in front of the Young family. At first, Rachel chooses a white dress with blue strip, proven in picture 4-30, but Kerry forbids her to wear that dress because the white and blue color is for Chinese funeral.

Rachel Chu : Hey mom, this one's kind of cute. What do you think?  
Kerry Chu : No, no, no, no! You can't wear that to meet Nick's Ah Ma. Blue and white is for Chinese funerals.  
(*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:10:00 – 00:10:06).



Picture 4-30

Afterwards, Kerry suggests her a mini red dress to Rachel, proven in picture 4-31. Colors in Chinese culture are important because every color represents certain meanings and values, and most of the Chinese people believe that red color symbolizes good things such as happiness and fortune, as stated by Kerry, “Now this, this symbolizes good fortune and fertility.” (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:10:09). Later, Rachel wears that dress when she visits Peik Lin, proven in picture 4-32. Wearing the red dress shows that Rachel believes in the Chinese values behind, as proven in her dialogue, “I thought red was a lucky color, right?” (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:32:01).



Picture 4-31



Picture 4-32

The second evidence is that Rachel is able to speak in Chinese. In some scenes, Rachel tries her ability to speak Chinese language to Nick's family members, which are Ling Cheh, proven in picture 4-33, and Nick's Ah Ma, proven in picture 4-34. Although she is not as fluent as Nick does, but she speaks Chinese language nicely. This indicates that Rachel still embrace her cultural identity as a Chinese.



Picture 4-33



Picture 4-34

Another evidence is in the scene when Rachel plays Mahjong with Eleanor in a Mahjong hall, proven in picture 4-35. Mahjong is a Chinese traditional game that becomes popular around the world, played by four players, consists of a set of 144 tiles. Rachel learns playing Mahjong from her mother, as stated by her, "My mom taught me how to play." (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:42:56). In playing Mahjong, it needs good skill and strategy to win, besides, Mahjong teaches some important moral values, as stated by Rachel, "She told me Mahjong would teach me important life skills. Negotiation, strategy, cooperation." (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:42:58). Rachel's ability in playing Mahjong shows that Rachel still holds the traditional culture from China.



Picture 4-35

Another evidence is that Rachel eats wearing chopsticks when she has a dinner with Nick, Colin, and Araminta, proven in picture 4-36 and has a lunch with Goh family, proven in picture 4-37. Eating using chopsticks is one of the Chinese cultures. These evidences show that Rachel embraces her original culture.



Picture 4-36



Picture 4-37

However, after analyzing the evidences, Rachel looks more like American than Chinese. It is seen from her personality, which accentuates the American culture. Like most of the Americans, Rachel pursues her passion, and she managed it by being the youngest economics professor in a reputable university. She is a self-made and independent woman. Also, most of the Americans use their personal freedom to speak up about themselves, so does Rachel. Rachel has the courage in confronting Eleanor shows that Rachel tries to speak up about herself. Besides, Rachel has a perfect American accent compared to other characters.

The fact that Rachel lives in New York since she was young makes Rachel is more engaged with American culture than Chinese culture. Also, Rachel



has never visited Asia before, as stated by Kerry Chu, “Oh you’re going to have a wonderful time. You’ve always wanted to go to Asia...” (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:10:33 – 00:10:37), it means that Rachel does not have direct interaction with Asian culture, particularly her heritage culture, which is Chinese culture. These facts create an opinion of the writer that the environment has a role in affecting Rachel Chu’s cultural orientation. Rachel is still identified with both American and Chinese cultures indeed, but she has the tendency to choose American culture as her dominant culture. As explained in previous chapter, individuals who tend to choose one of two cultures are categorized as individuals with low level in Bicultural Identity Integration (BII). In sum, Rachel Chu is categorized as an individual with low level in BII.

There is an issue appeared of being bicultural individuals, particularly an individual with low level of BII. They may receive discrimination from the predominant society or even the members of their original culture. The individual with low level of BII might appear in one culture they are comfortable with instead of balancing the both cultures, and it makes them seem different to the society. In this case, Rachel Chu gets discrimination from Eleanor Young because she looks like an American rather than Chinese. It is proven in the scene when Nick says that Rachel will stay together in his house, but Eleanor rejects her by saying, “I see. Well we’re having the house redone, and it’s not ready for guest. If Rachel comes I think she might be comfortable staying somewhere else.” (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 00:09:36 - 00:09:45).

For Eleanor, the Americans are only thinking about themselves and only pursuing something temporary, which is happiness. Eleanor refuses Rachel to be the part of her family because she assumes that Rachel cannot thoroughly devote her self to the family, as most of the Chinese women do, because Rachel has a job.

Rachel Chu : That's very romantic. How did you guys meet?  
Nick Young : Actually, they met at Cambridge. They were both studying law together.  
Rachel Chu : Oh, I didn't know you were a lawyer.  
Eleanor Young : I wasn't. I withdraw from university when we got married.  
Rachel Chu : Oh...  
Eleanor Young : I chose to help my husband run a business and to raise a family. For me, it was a privilege. But for you, you may think it's old fashioned. It's nice you appreciate this house and us being here together wrapping dumplings. But all this doesn't just happen. It's because we know to put family first, instead of chasing one's passion.

*(Crazy Rich Asians, 1:09:58 – 1:10:36)*

From the dialogue above, it can be seen that Eleanor tries to bring Rachel down by saying, "It's because we know to put family first, instead of chasing one's passion." This sentence proves that Eleanor exemplifies herself as a good Chinese woman, which put her family first above other things. Besides, Eleanor compares herself to Rachel by saying, "I chose to help my husband run a business and to raise a family. For me, it was a privilege. But for you, you may think it's old fashioned." Also, in those sentences, Eleanor assumes that Rachel will never understand the meaning of a family as taught in Chinese culture because Rachel is busy chasing her dream.

In addition, there is a significant difference between Rachel and Eleanor. Both Rachel and Eleanor were going to college, but the difference is that Rachel is continuing her academic life to serve the people in the university as a professor, whereas Eleanor chooses to withdraw herself from the college to be a loyal wife. Those facts show that Rachel sticks with American values, meanwhile Eleanor holds the Confucius teaching about family, which Eleanor prioritizes the family among others. These cultural matters become one of the reasons why Eleanor does not give her blessing to Rachel and Nick's relationship.

Then, Rachel gives Eleanor a clearance that when she withdraws herself from her relationship with Nick, and Nick finds his own happiness with someone else, it is because of Rachel's sacrifice.

"I just love Nick so much. I don't want him to lose his mom again. So I just wanted you to know that one day, when he marries another lucky girl, who is enough for you, and you're playing with your grandkids while the tan huas are blooming, and the birds are chirping, that it was because of me, a poor, raised by a single mother, low class, immigrant, nobody." (*Crazy Rich Asians*, 1:45:38 – 1:46:22)

Rachel's sentence, "... when he marries another lucky girl, who is enough for you... it was because of me," shows that Rachel has done many struggles to defend her relationship with Nick and finally, she comes to the moment that she has to make a hard decision for Nick's good.

Nevertheless, Rachel's struggle in facing the discrimination from Eleanor is yielding a good ending. Rachel's sentences above makes Eleanor shock. After the Mahjong game, it looks like Eleanor is contemplating what Rachel says to her, proven in the picture 4-38. It looks like Eleanor gets the life lesson from her conflict with Rachel. At the end of the story, Nick proposes Rachel with Eleanor's

ring, proven in picture 4-39. Eleanor's emerald rings Nick presented for Rachel means that Eleanor finally giving her approval for their relationship.



Picture 4-38



Picture 4-39

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSION

The main character of *Crazy Rich Asians* (2018) film, Rachel Chu, is a representation of a bicultural individual. She is a Chinese-American who lives in New York, United States, with her only parent and family, Kerry Chu. After doing a profound analysis, the writer concludes that Rachel Chu is categorized as an individual with low level of Bicultural Identity Integration (BII). The writer sees that Rachel Chu is still identified with both American and Chinese cultures indeed, however, seen from Rachel's way of thinking and personality, Rachel tends to be more like American than Chinese. The way she pursues her dreams and happiness proves that Rachel applies the American culture and values in her life. Also, having a job as an economics professor shows that Rachel is a self-made and independent woman. Besides, Rachel has a great American accent compared to other characters.

Moreover, the writer also concludes that Chu tends to choose the American culture to be her dominant culture is also because of her environment. She lives in America since she was young, which means that Rachel has more interaction with American culture than Chinese culture. The writer sees that it also becomes one of the factors that affect Rachel Chu's cultural orientation.

As a bicultural individual, Rachel Chu experiences discrimination from Eleanor Young. Eleanor treats her differently in a bad way because Eleanor sees her as a foreigner, which has different cultural background to her. Even though

Rachel is a Chinese descent as well, Eleanor assumes that Rachel appears more like American than Chinese, because Rachel's way of thinking is more influenced by the American culture, which contradicts the Chinese culture. The discrimination may occur to the person who appears more in one culture, instead of balancing of both cultures. At the end of the story, Rachel's struggle and sacrifice are paid off. Eleanor is eventually giving her blessing to Rachel and Nick's relationship.

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