

Cultural Identity Tapestry in Amy Tan's The Hundred Secret Senses

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Abstract

The Hundred Secret Senses is Amy Tan's third novel in which she manages to weave the theme of cross cultures and cultural identities. Amy Tan weaves a cultural identity tapestry using the coloured threads of two nations in two different story lines; Olivia's story that is shaped by American values, materialism, self-centeredness, rationality, scepticism, pragmatism, and rejection of the traditional ways of China, and Kwan's story that is weaved by mystical Chinese values and the past. Actually, the two story lines emphasize the differences between Eastern and Western cultures and how individuals are located between cultures that conceptualize their identities. Thus, in this paper the major intention is to discuss the distinct groups of major characters from different centuries and different cultures that have taught each other how to conceptualize their identities by accepting that there are senses that go beyond the five customary ones, other modes of knowing and other ways of connecting to other lives that conceptualize the cultural identity tapestry in Amy Tan's The Hundred Secret Senses.