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**The Intergenerational Conflict Between The Two Generations As
A Result Of Differences In Culture And Social Environment In
The Novels Of Amy Tan**

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ABSTRACT

Mukherjee's women characters Tara, Dimple, Jasmine, Hannah, Debby manifest different degrees of changes and adaptive patterns in their personality in the cultural interface. This chapter aims to analyse the impact of migration, especially a cross-cultural one upon the immigrant psyche. The analysis will, in the process reveal the psychological maladies afflicting the Asian in America. Tan's novels focus on the tension or intergenerational conflict between the two generations as a result of differences in culture and social environment. While the daughters find themselves confused and disturbed by the generational conflict, the mothers feel alienated from their own daughters, and this causes mental distress, because the matrilineal tradition of the Chinese establish strong bonds between mothers and daughters. Tan has effectively captured the two categories of Chinese American women separated by culture and generation, in her novels. Mukherjee's characters, like herself, have grown from expatriation to immigration. Her earlier protagonists, Tara and Dimple, show the typical expatriate syndrome, of nostalgia for the homeland, and disorientation in the new sociocultural environment. Dimple is a case study of the peculiar stress induced by a crosscultural social environment. Her later characters, Jasmine, and the Asian immigrants in her short stories are those who have learnt to accommodate themselves within the multicultural, multiethnic American society. Jasmine is a semi-autobiographical character whose trajectory from Indian widowhood to American citizenship is the typical story of the frontier saga.

Keywords: *Intergenerational conflict between the two generations, differences in culture and social environment – Amy Tan Novels*