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The two texts I'm doing is an extract from the chapter called 'Twenty-six Malignant Gates' in the novel The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan and the other text I'm doing is an extract from an interview with Amy Chua who is the author of a parenting memoir called The Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother and I'm linking these two texts to the global issue of how is the Chinese migrant Diaspora experience represented. So The Joy Luck Club was a novel written in 1989 and it tells the story of four mother daughter immigrant families who live in the US.

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And in the second interview instruct it's regarding the parenting memoir that Amy Chua wrote and when she published this book there was a lot of controversy surrounding what she had written about her parenting methods. She took pride in her role as a Tiger Mother a term usually culturally describing an Asian mother who was very strict in her parenting. And she was responding to the backlash by saying that she wasn't the monster she represented herself to be. And so I felt like both texts discussed the representation of mother daughter relationships within the Chinese Diaspora experience.

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Particularly within the United States. There is a cultural dissonance both described but also I think the whitewashing of Asian voices as well. So in The Joy Luck Club it's presented as the storytelling of the Chinese migrant culture. And in the extract in particular it's about an argument between a mother and her daughter and how the daughter is upset because she felt like her mother was being too strict on her about piano practice. And so I analyzed this through Edward Said theory of Orientalism and which states that the dominant Western culture over other ethnic cultures by asserting that they're different from themselves. And so I felt as if this was also applicable to the first generation and second generation migrant experience where the daughter uses the language. I wasn't her slave. This wasn't China and others herself from her mother by claiming her identity was a rejection of her mother is Chinese migrant parenting and further her values and her parenting. And so the chapter title itself 26 Malignant Gates is a reference to a Chinese text referring to the fact that a mother has to watch over her daughter because bad things will happen to her if she looks away.

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And so Amy Tan narrates the voice of the Chinese mother. As almost a product of this oppressive Chinese culture where she's vulnerable and backwards and this is where I think the controversy of the book where the critics said that it was reinforcing stereotypes of the Chinese mother was coming in too as the mother was described to be 'her mouth was open, smiling crazily as she was pleased I was crying' and the mother says oppressive language such as 'only one kind of daughter can live in this household. Full stop .Obedient daughter. Full stop in which the punctuation of the two words obedient daughter is emphasized and I felt as if this language instead of representing what the parenting values of Asian culture could be was instead presenting the mother as the villain to the daughter who represented the merge of Western and Chinese culture so further representing the Migrant Mother as the carrier of a culture that's backwards. And so the mother is not only presented as the villain but she's also a victim in her own text. As later on the daughter says, makes a remark that really hurts the mother and says '... as if she was blowing away like a small brown leaf, thin, brittle, lifeless.'

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And this again is emphasized with commas between the words thin, brittle and lifeless emphasizing that she is a victim of her own culture and I felt this is then again a rejection of Chinese culture through the Chinese migrant experience as the exposure to Western culture as victimizing herself and she becomes a victim of her own culture. And this is in contrast to the Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother as in the interview.

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The representation of Amy Chua is completely different. Amy Chua unlike the representation of Suyuan who is just a mother in The Joy Luck Club She's presented as successful modern and an intellectual. Theme interview describes her role the news article where the interview takes place describes her as charming warm down to earth quick to laugh which almost seems to be reassuring the readers that she's not the monster that she presented herself to be in her novel and she's human which it's humanizing her and also the article uses humor with parentheses such as as she has described to be charming warm and down to earth.

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The writer says brackets My son didn't think she was like a monster at all and it almost feels as of Amy Traore who reclaimed true narrative by writing her story as a Tiger Mother as Atlanta again. Her voice is being oppressed by the Western gaze. As it almost felt as if the article was saying that oh actually she's not the. Powerful Asian mother she wrote herself to be as she's described to be wearing a black sweater and earrings and a skirt and an Uptown restaurant in Chelsea New York. And she's not the typical exotic sized image we have of Asian mothers and ethnic clothing.

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SPEAKING IN MANDARIN. So not only is she introduced to be a Western migrant. Who is. Humanized from her own work. The own interview herself seems to be taken away by the language surrounding her quotes. So in the interview she says that her Asian friends discouraged her from publishing the book. She says Oh I responded to. You can't talk about this in the West. I thought why shouldn't we be all to talk about this. And following the sentence following her claim that she wanted to reclaim her story as a tiger mother.

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Was. Her husband stated that they actually had a lot of freedom. They went apple picking and then I go. I felt as if this was erasure of her narrative. By constantly reassuring the reader that she wasn't the monster Tiger Mother. That the article seems to be undermining her us. So there appears to be a contradiction of her representation in the article. As. The article simultaneously claims her to be powerful for telling her narrative of the Tiger Mother but also simultaneously using a westernised lens and not truly narrowing her story.

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Therefore I felt was this due to representations of these two Chinese migrant mothers. We're not truly represented in their own authentic voices as the first one presented the Asian mother to be trapped within her own oppressive culture. In the context of the novel being publishing a new 10 books received a lot of well claimed appraisal as people thought as it for the first time. Asian voices were truly being represented in popular culture. But at the same time she did not truly narrate the story as it was as she was narrating the story of an agent migrant from a hegemony of Western culture and almost as if she was binding herself.

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To typical Western stereotypes of the Asian migrant. And this again is seen through not only of her being the ignorant mother who is not aware of the liberal Western parenting methods but only also through the language she is described to use where short sentences almost seem to mimic poorly spoken English. And in the Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother. And in this interview Lin again you would think that with her original book she was reclaiming the role of the Tiger Mom as she was retelling a typically Western narrative roll through her own experiences.

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But then again for this extract she is seen to be a victim of Western the Western lens where she is. Almost the offer as making fun of her with her use of humor and the whole oh she is not a monster because she is down to earth and she's funny and it's problematic because it's also erasure of her voice. Therefore. I felt as if the Chinese migrant Diaspora experience represented in Western culture ultimately binds voices to a western hegemony where. Certain stereotypes are continually perpetrated such as the strict mother the vulnerable migrant mother.

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Who are unaware of Western culture and thus linking back to Edward sides Orientalism as line again showing that Western culture is superior over other cultures because they are different and when they are put in a Western culture they are the vulnerable ignorant ones.

[00:10:28.350]

Okay. Thank you that was really interesting.

[00:10:30.110]

So you've chosen these two texts and ended up arguing that neither neither of these authors is able to sort of authentically and um problematically present their own experience. What do you think gets in the way of Asian women being able to tell their stories fully in the context of Western culture. I think the main problem is that they wrote these texts for a Western audience which means they aren't authentically able to told her story because the Western ones.

[00:11:00.030]

Already pre-existing Li others Asian culture had Amy Tan written her book for the Chinese diaspora community then there would have been a relatable text that the migrant community can relate to. The problem is because her first steps in telling her story were immediately for a Western hegemony. She was working against pre-existing stereotypes where it may not. Definitely wasn't her intention in writing this book to reinforce the stereotypes of the Asian migrant experience. It was more of the fact that she was writing against pre-existing stereotypes. So no matter how she uses her language I mean any my extract she she's simply trying to tell the story of cultural dissonance between a mother and her daughter.

[00:11:53.850]

But when we look at it from a Western perspective. We get vulnerable migrant because these are narratives we're really exposed to and that's what I think the problem underlies.

[00:12:05.650]

OK. And boy do you think the US as a culture we are also threatened by the by the Tiger Mother.

[00:12:14.210]

Well I think in the western hegemony there are already negative connotations around the concept of a migrant and in a western world where we consider the White population to be a success and of dominance in the Western society the success the product of the Asian tiger mom where stereotypically it's piano genius or the engineer feels almost frightening to perhaps white parents where they feel like their children is not successful. And that's why they feel so threatened.

[00:12:50.540]

Thank you very much.