

**CONFLICTS FACED BY RACHEL CHU IN KEVIN KWAN'S  
*CRAZY RICH ASIANS***

**THESIS**



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## ABSTRACT

Putri, N. M. Y.(2022). *Conflicts faced by Rachel Chu in Kevin Kwan's Crazy Rich Asians*. English Department, UIN SunanAmpel Surabaya. Advisor: Dr. WahyuKusumajanti, M. Hum.

Keywords: Conflict, Internal Conflict, External Conflict, Solved the Conflict

In this study, the researcher analyzes a novel by Kevin Kwan,*Crazy Rich Asians*. The researcher focuses on conflicts faced by Rachel Chu as the main character in *Crazy Rich Asians*. This study also analyzes how the conflicts can be solved in the novel.

This study applies a descriptive method. It uses new criticism as a theory to help analyzing the intrinsic element, that is conflict,which appeared in the novel and experienced by Rachel Chu as the main character. There are two kinds of conflicts those are internal and external conflict.

The result shows the kinds of conflicts faced by Rachel Chu, both internal and external conflict. In internal conflict, Rachel struggles with her own decision, while in external conflict, Rachel has a conflict with her boyfriend, mother, boyfriend's family, and boyfriend's friends. In the end, the researcher explained how all of the conflicts could be solved because of her boyfriend's help.



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## ABSTRAK

Putri, N. M. Y.(2022).*Konflik yang Dihadapi Rachel Chu pada novel Kevin Kwan Crazy Rich Asians*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M. Hum.

**Kata Kunci:** Konflik, Konflik Internal, Konflik Eksternal, Mengatasi Konflik

Pada penelitian ini, peneliti menganalisa sebuah novel karya Kevin Kwan berjudul *Crazy Rich Asians*. peneliti focus pada konflik yang dihadapi Rachel Chu sebagai karater utama pada novel *Crazy Rich Asians*. Penelitian ini juga menganalisa bagaimana konflik-konflik pada novel dapat diatasi.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori *new criticism* untuk membantu menganalisa unsur intrinsic, yaitu konflik yang ada pada novel yang dialami oleh karakter utama. Ada dua jenis konflik yaitu, konflik internal dan konflik eksternal.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan jenis-jenis konflik yang dihadapi Rachel Chu, baik konflik internal maupun eksternal. Pada konflik internal, Rachel berjuang dengan keputusan pribadinya. Sedangkan, pada konflik eksternal, Rachel memiliki konflik dengan kekasihnya, ibunya, keluarga kekasihnya dan teman-teman kekasihnya. Pada bagian akhir, peneliti menjelaskan bagaimana semua konflik dapat teratasi atas bantuan kekasih Rachel.



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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Conflict is a common thing that happens in every individual. Conflict does not only happen in real life, but also appears in a literary work. Conflict is one of the elements that exist in a story. According to Kenney, a story contains a conflict (Kenney, 1996, p.19). Based on that statement, Every story will always have conflicts in it. Then, at the end of the story, there will be a resolution or how the character could handle and solve all of the conflicts.

Conflict in a literary work usually appears in short stories, novels, drama and poems. Without conflict, there will be no plot because conflict creates tension in the story. A conflict will influence the following action or situation in a story (Rosaria, 2004, p.16). Conflict is also described as the opposite situation that experienced by protagonist, usually that situation created by the antagonist, nature or an event (Arifuddin, 2014, p.7). Conflict is also known as a resistance of mind, physics, and emotion, between man and man or animal or even man and himself (Stanton, 1995, p.31). Conflict is essential in a literary work, and it will influence the reader to be intervened in the story's situation (Muttaqi, 2016, p.2). So, it will make the story becoming more interesting to read. It will create the ups and downs inside the story.

In this study, the researcher used a novel written by Kevin Kwan. He wrote trilogy books. The first book was *Crazy Rich Asians*, the second book was *China Rich Girlfriend*, the third was *Rich People Problems*. The first book, told about the

introduction of a girl who come to her boyfriend's hometown. The second book told about a wedding preparation of those couple and a real life of the girl in her country, China. The third book told about the couple life after their marriage. This research used the first novel *Crazy Rich Asians*. The researcher analyzed the conflicts faced by the main character in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*. Besides analyzing conflicts, the researcher examined how the conflicts could be solved in the novel. This novel is about Rachel Chu, an Asian immigrant who moved in the United States. She dated Nicholas Young, who is a Chinese-Singaporean. The conflicts began when Nicholas asked Rachel to come to his hometown during the summer holiday. Rachel experienced both internal and external conflicts in her life after that.

Furthermore, This novel has been conducted by researchers. They discussed family conflict in the novel (Rohmawati, 2018), social class conflict (Damayanti, 2020, Paramastri, 2021, Hananti, 2021), marriage conflict (Nugroho, 2021). Other studied the popular romance formula of the characters in the novel (Pambudi, 2019) and the moral value of the novel (Wijaya, 2019). The researcher did not find any research focus on the conflict faced by the main character, Rachel Chu, so the researcher intended to conduct the study on this issue.

The researcher focused on the internal and external conflicts experienced by the main character, Rachel Chu, and how the conflicts could be solved in the novel. This topic has not been conducted, and the previous studies focus on the different topics. By conducting this study, the researcher tries to show conflicts, especially in a couple's life who have different backgrounds in family, culture, and

economy. Therefore, this study, entitled *Conflicts faced by Rachel Chu in Kevin Kwan's Crazy Rich Asians* is chosen.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher formulates research questions as follows (1) how is Rachel Chu's conflict described in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* and (2) how is Rachel Chu's conflicts can be solved in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*.

## **1.2 Objectives of The Study**

This study has two goals as in the following lines.

1. To describe the kinds of conflicts faced by Rachel Chu in *Crazy Rich Asians*.
2. To describe how Rachel Chu's conflicts can be solved in *Crazy Rich Asians*.

## **1.3 Significance of The Study**

The researcher hoped this research can be a reference for English Department students who would like to conduct research using the same novel. This study also gave additional knowledge for the researcher and the reader. The researcher gave understanding about the conflicts faced by Rachel Chu in the novel, and its result shows how conflicts occur in Rachel's life also how its conflicts can be solved.

## **1.4 Scope and Limitation**

The scope of this study is analyzing the main character of the novel written by Kevin Kwan, *Crazy Rich Asians*. The main character of the novel is a Chinese

immigrant girl named Rachel Chu. While the limitation of the study is the conflicts and the resolution faced by Rachel Chu as the main character.

## **1.5 Method of Study**

### **1.5.1 Research Design**

In this study, the researcher used library research to reveal the answer to the research problem. The researcher collected references such as journals, books, thesis, and articles from websites. This study used a descriptive qualitative research method. It is used to explain the findings of the analysis in sentences.

### **1.5.2 Data Source**

There are two data sources in this study. Those are a primary source and secondary sources. The primary source of this research was the novel *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan. While, the secondary sources were collected from books, articles, thesis, journals, and previous studies which were related to this recent study.

### **1.5.3 Data Collection**

These are several steps used by the researcher for collecting the data:

1. The researcher read the novel *Crazy Rich Asians* comprehensively to get a deep understanding.
2. The researcher created a data table for interpreting each sentence of the novel to find the most suitable topic for the study.

3. The researcher classified the quotations which were relevant to the topic of the study. The topic of the study is conflicts faced by the main character. The quotations are in the form of phrases, sentences, and dialogues.
4. The researcher divided the quotations into internal conflicts and external conflicts faced by the main character.
5. The researcher collected additional sources from books, articles, journals, and thesis to help analyzing the study.

#### **1.5.4 Data Analysis**

The researcher used these steps to present the analysis:

- 1) The researcher divided the analysis into two sections. Those are the kinds of conflicts faced by Rachel Chu and the way Rachel's conflicts can be overcome.
- 2) The researcher explained the conflicts specifically. The conflicts will be divided into two those are, internal conflict and external conflict. Then, the researcher will describe how Rachel's conflicts can be overcome, who helped her to solve them, and what they did to clear it all.
- 3) The researcher wrote the conclusions of the analysis.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

#### 2.1. New Criticism

This chapter consists of the theory that is used by the researcher to analyze conflicts faced by Rachel Chu in *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan. The researcher used New Criticism as the main theory. The researcher used this theory as a tool to analyze intrinsic elements in the novel and reveal conflicts inside the story.

New Criticism is a theory that focuses on the understanding of the text itself (King, 2008, p.225). Therefore, New Criticism is a tool for analyzing the true meaning of a text based on the text itself (Pambudi, 2019, p.8). New Criticism emphasizes close reading. The emphasis on close reading is the result of a critical theory which focuses on the language of a text (King, 2008, p. 226). In other words, close reading is the way to understand the literary text's meaning.

New Criticism does not focus on the external elements. This theory is used for analyzing the intrinsic element of the story. New Criticism shows the evidence provided by the language of the text, such as symbols, metaphors, rhyme, setting, plot (Tyson, 2006, p.137). So, this theory would ignore the historical background, political background, author's experience, author's biography, and other external element of the story.

New Criticism used for analyzing what was inside the text or the story. It will focus on how the element inside the text could reveal the story's meaning. This



study used this theory to show kinds of conflicts faced by Rachel Chu in the novel *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan.

## **2.2 Conflict**

There are many definitions of conflict. Conflict is a situation that creates tension between a character and opposition (Cuddon, 2013, p.152). Conflict is a universal case that occurs in the world, and it happens in the human's environment (Arifuddin, 2014, p.6). According to Kenney, a story would consist of a conflict, and it can be a conflict between a man and himself, man and society, also man and nature (Kenney, 1996, p.19). Conflict happens among characters, character and environment, character and his thought, need, emotions, and all of them would occur in a story (Arifuddin, 2014, p.6).

Conflict gives tension and makes a story more interesting. In a story, conflict may happen not only in a human's life but also in an animal or inanimate object that is treated like a human (Pambudi, 2019, p.12). Many factors cause conflict, first, a contradiction between individuals, cultural differences, interest differences, social changes (Dewi, 2019, p.400).

### **2.2.1 Kinds of Conflict**

The researcher has explained the definition of conflict and the factors that cause conflict. The conflict has a vital role in building a story to be more interesting. Conflict also creates tension or ups and downs in the story so that reader would not feel bored when reading a novel. In this part, the researcher will explain about kinds of conflict. There are two kinds of conflict, internal conflict and external conflict.

### **2.2.1.1 Internal Conflict**

Internal conflict is a kind of conflict that happens between the character and himself or herself; it deals with a character's thought (Pambudi, 2019, p.15). So, internal conflict has no correlation with another character, environment, or what was outside the character's mind and feeling. Internal conflict happens inside the character's mind. It can be a contradiction inside themselves that causes doubt or clash for themselves.

### **2.2.1.2 External Conflict**

External conflict is a conflict that occurs between a character and something outside the character (Pambudi, 2019, p.14). According to Nurgiyantoro, an external conflict might happen between man vs. man and man vs. nature (Nurgiyantoro, 1995, p.124). A conflict that occurs between man vs. man is a kind of external conflict that often occurs in a story just like in human's life.

A character and a character might have different thoughts, opinions or perspectives about something, those things can build a conflict between them. Besides a man vs man, there is a conflict between a character vs. society. It can be a character that cannot be accepted by a certain community, culture or government. While, a conflict between man vs. nature could happen because of natural disasters or disease epidemics.

## **2.3 Review of Related Studies**

In this part, the researcher shows several related previous studies. Some studies used the same object or novel *Crazy Rich Asians*. However, they used different theories and chose different topics as their studies.

First, AnzdiSetyaPambudi, wrote a research *Romance Popular Formula Reflected in The Main Characters of Kevin Kwan's Crazy Rich Asians*. He wrote it in 2019. In this study, he analyzed romance formula in the novel. He used romance popular formula and new criticism as theories. He showed how the characters met, fell in love, and how the relationship ended up at the end of the story.

Second, DwiRohmawati, wrote *Family Conflict Reflected in Kevin Kwan's Crazy Rich Asians: A Sociological Approach*. She wrote it in 2018. She explained how was the family conflict was arose. In the novel, many families are included in the story. She explained all of the family conflicts and analyzed them using the Sociological approach.

Third, Meldyana Wijaya wrote *The Analysis of Moral Value Seen in Kevin Kwan's Novel "Crazy Rich Asians"*. She wrote it in 2019. In this study, she used character and characterization theory and moral value theory. She analyzed all of the characterizations of every characters in the novel. Then, she defined the most dominant moral value in each characters.

Fourth, Nadilla Octavia Damayanti wrote *Social Class Conflict in Kevin Kwan's Crazy rich Asians*. She wrote it in 2020. She used sociological approach. She analyzed social class conflicts in the novel those are the upper and middle class. This study also analyzed the effects of social class conflict in the novel.

Fifth, Dhaneswara Dhaka Paramastriwrote *Class Conflict as Seen in the Selected Characters of Crazy Rich Asians Movie: A Marxist Study*. She wrote it in

2021. She used Marxist approach and characterization theory. She analyzed characterization of characters in the movie and classified class conflict in the movie.

Sixth, GityaAjengHananti wrote *Social Class Conflict in novel Crazy Rich Asians by Kevin Kwan: A Sociological approach*. She wrote this study in 2021. She used sociological approach. She analyzed kinds of social class conflicts in each family in the novel.

Seventh, AnindithaLangit Nugroho wrote *Marriage Conflict Related to Social Class Revealed Through the Marriage of Astrid and Michael in Kevin Kwan's Crazy Rich Asians*. She wrote it in 2021. She used sociological approach also characters and characterization theory. She analyzed the marriage conflict between Astrid and Michael then, described the different class between them.

Those previous studies inspired the researcher to conduct this research. There are differences between the related previous studies and this recent study. In this study, the researcher only focused on the main character, Rachel Chu and analyze conflicts faced by her, both internal conflict and external conflict. Besides that, the researcher also explained how Rachel's conflicts can be solved in the novel. The researcher used New Criticism as the main approach to analyze the intrinsic elements of the novel.

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **CONFLICTS FACED BY RACHEL CHU IN KEVIN KWAN'S *CRAZY RICH ASIANS***

This chapter discusses conflicts faced by Rachel Chu in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*. Rachel Chu is the main character of this novel. She is an Asian Immigrant who has moved in the United States since she was a baby. One day, she would like to have a summer holiday in Singapore with her Chinese-Singaporean boyfriend. She was very excited at the first, but everything seemed out of expectation because she faced a lot of conflicts there. In this part, the researcher aims to analyze the conflicts faced by Rachel Chu while she was in Singapore. The discussion will be divided into two sections. First, the researcher discussed the kind of conflicts faced by Rachel Chu; those are internal conflict and external conflict. Second, the researcher discussed how the conflicts can be solved. To make the discussion quite understandable, the researcher gave the resume of Rachel Chu's journey in Singapore, which was told in *Crazy Rich Asians*.

Rachel Chu in *Crazy Rich Asian* is an Asian Immigrant who lived in The United States with her single mother, Kerry Chu, since she was a baby, less than one year old. She is a professor of economic development at a university in New York. She dated a professor too, Nicholas Young, who taught in the same university as Rachel. One day, her boyfriend, Nicholas Young, or Nick, as Rachel usually called him, offered Rachel to join him to Singapore for attending his best

friend's wedding. Besides that, he also offered Rachel to travel Asia during summer holiday after he finished his duty as a best man in Singapore.

When they finally reached there. Rachel was amazed by the building in Singapore. All of them were so modern and luxurious. It was not only the building but also the people. They were wealthy, especially in Nick's circle. Rachel felt that she did not understand anything about Nick after they had been dating for two years already. She did not know that Nick came from a wealthy family.

The conflicts finally began in her life because of Rachel's lack of information about Nick's family and Nick's circle. Rachel was shocked. Their lifestyle was so crazy. They could hold a big party for days and spend millions of money just to please them. She felt unconfident with herself after knowing that her boyfriend is a wealthy man. The people around Nick were also degrading her. They saw that Rachel was not worth for Nick only because of Rachel's social status and family background.

### **3.1 Kinds of conflicts faced by Rachel Chu**

In this section, the researcher discussed the kinds of conflicts faced by Rachel. It would be divided into two kinds of conflicts. The first is internal Conflict. It is a conflict in Rachel Chu's mind or heart. It includes Rachel's struggle to decide something or her feeling about a person and situation. The second is External Conflict. It is a conflict between Rachel Chu and the characters in *Crazy Rich Asians*. It includes Rachel Chu vs. Nick's Family, which is divided into two; Rachel Chu vs. Eleanor Young and Rachel Chu vs. Sang Su Yi. Then, Rachel Chu vs. Nick's Friends, which divided into; Rachel Chu vs. Araminta Lee's

Invitees, Rachel Chu vs. Amanda Ling, Rachel Chu vs. Francesca Shaw. Next is Rachel Chu vs. Nicholas Young, and the last is Rachel Chu vs. Kerry Chu.

### **3.1.1 Internal Conflict**

In the novel, Rachel Chu had to face internal conflicts within herself. It appears in part one of the novel, Rachel, who had lunch with her boyfriend, Nicholas Young, was in a struggle to decide whether she accepted her boyfriend's offer to join him traveled Asia during the summer holiday or not. She considered many things before she decided. She thought about how long she would be there.

'It all sounds amazing, but ten weeks ... I don't know if I want to be away that long,' Rachel mused. (Kwan, 2013, p. 23).

The quotation above, it shows that Rachel cannot deny that traveling Asia would be excellent. Especially after she listened to Nick's plan, however ten weeks was too long. She had never been away from her mother, Kerry Chu, for ten weeks. It would be hard for her to decide. She was dilemma whether she had to accept this offer or refuse it. Besides that, Rachel was wondering about Nick's intention who will bring her to his big family in Singapore.

Yet something about this trip made Rachel a little apprehensive, and she couldn't help but ponder the deeper implications. Nick made it seem so spontaneous, but knowing him, she was sure he had put far more thought into it than he let on. They had been together for almost two years, and now he was inviting her on an extended trip to visit his hometown, to attend his best friend's wedding, no less. Did this mean what she thought it did? (Kwan, 2013, p. 23).

Rachel and Nick have been dating for two years so, Rachel thought that she had known well about Nick's character, she knew that Nick was a very well-prepared person. It made Rachel wondering about Nick's plan, which seemed so spontaneous. She was curious about Nick's intention to bring her to his hometown



and introduced her to his family. Rachel thought, it might be a serious step for their relationship. Nick was 32 years old and Rachel was 29 years old. Those were a proper age for marriage, especially they were Chinese. It can be seen in the quotation below.

She had never been the sort of girl who longed for fairytale endings. Being twenty-nine, she was by Chinese standards well into old-maid territory (Kwan, 2013, p. 23).

In Chinese standards, the ideal age for marriage is 22 years old for men and 20 years old for women (Xiaorong, 2018, p. 25). Rachel was not the type of girl who thought about marriage since she lived in The United States. She was there since she was a baby and it made her adopted American culture more than Chinese. As in The United States, marriage was not a necessary thing in a couple life. She has also never dreamed about happy marriage as the ending of her relationship, however, somehow Nick's offer about traveling Asia and visiting his family was questionable for Rachel. It made her speculate about Nick's serious step for their relationship.

After deciding to accept Nick's offer, Rachel was confused with the room arrangement when they arrived in Singapore. She wanted to know whether she would be in the same room with him as usual, just like what they did in Nick's apartment, or they would be in a separate room. Rachel was thinking about it because of her mom, Kerry Chu, reminded her to talk about room arrangement since Nick's parents stayed in Asia. Rachel who has a Chinese mom with liberal-minded, she did not understand about room arrangement, she thought that Asian parents would be the same as American parents, they would not have an

intervention to their children's' relationship and consider it as their children's private life. However, Kerry said that Nick's parents might not be as liberal-minded as her, who let Rachel stayed in Nick's apartment as she stated in the quotation below.

“Sleeping arrangements? What are you talking about, Mom?”

“Daughter, that is the most important thing. You mustn't assume that Nick's parents are going to be as liberal-minded as I am. You are going to Singapore, and those Chinese Singaporeans are the most uptight of all the Chinese, you know! I don't want his parents to think I didn't raise you properly.” (Kwan, 2013, p. 34).

After knowing about Chinese Singaporean parents from her mom, Rachel was thinking about it and she decided to go to Nick's apartment to ask about it. As she arrived at Nick's apartment, Rachel began to ask Nick about the room arrangement.

“So ... what's the story when we're staying at your parents' place? Are we sharing a bedroom, or would they be scandalized?”

Nick cocked his head. “Hmm. I suppose we'll be in the same room —”

“You suppose or you know?”

“Don't worry, once we arrive everything will get sorted.”

*Get sorted.* Normally Rachel found Nick's Britishy phrases so charming, but in this instance it was a tad frustrating. (Kwan, 2013, p. 35).

Nick stated that everything would be okay when they arrived in Singapore. Somehow, Rachel doubted Nick's utterance “get sorted”. It made her wondering and confused. She felt that it seemed like Nick only wanted to make Rachel calm down, but he actually also had not known about it yet. It made Rachel get little confused thinking about the room arrangement because this will be her first time visiting her Asian boyfriend's parents, and she did not understand well how Asian Parents were. Rachel did not want to make mistake especially it will be her first time.

“Relax—my parents aren’t the kind of people who pay any attention to sleeping arrangements.” Rachel wondered if that was really true. She tried to go back to reading the State Department’s Southeast Asia travel advisory website. (Kwan, 2013, p. 35).

Rachel still felt unsure about Nick’s statement. Her mother, who was not a typical Chinese parent, cannot give her a view about how Chinese parents are. Then, Rachel decided to read a Southeast Asia travel advisory website to make her understand how was the situation in Asia and what aspects did they need to pay attention when they were there. She needed to get ready for everything before she went to visit Nick’s hometown. She took it seriously as she thought that maybe Nick would introduce her to his parents as a sign that he might be ready for a serious relationship or marriage. That was the cause of Rachel’s confusion. She did not want to take the wrong step when she was there.

As they reached in Singapore, Rachel and Nick had their schedule. They both would attend the bachelorette party of the future bride and groom. They were Colin Khoo and Araminta Lee. Nick would go to Colin Khoo’s party, and Rachel went to Araminta’s party. As she reached Araminta’s place.

Rachel thought that her outfit—a seafoam blue tunic top paired with a white denim skirt—was rather cute, but now it seemed a little shabby compared to the girls in their fresh-off the-catwalk ensembles. (Kwan, 2013, p. 185).

It can be seen in the quotation above that Rachel felt inferior, the outfit she was wearing was not worth to wear at that bachelorette party. She saw the girls who attended that party were wearing branded and expensive outfits. She did not know that they would be wearing such an outfit. Rachel felt inferior as she finally understood how they dressed. Rachel thought that they bought dresses that

hadbeen shown off in the fashion show event or catwalk. As she waited for Araminta Lee, Rachel overheard the girls' conversation.

Araminta was nowhere to be seen, so Rachel just stood around smiling at everyone as snippets of conversation drifted her way.

"I searched the world for that handbag, and even L'Eclaireur in Paris couldn't get it for me ..."

"It's a three-bedroom in that old complex on Thompson Road. I have a gut feeling it's going to go en bloc and I'll triple my money ..."

"OMG, I found the best new place for chili crab, you won't believe where ..." "I like the Lanesborough's suites more than Claridge's, but really, the Calthorpe is where you want to be ..."

"Nonsense, lah! No Signboard Seafood still has the best chili crab ..."

"This isn't cashmere, you know. It's baby vicuña ..."

"Did you hear Swee Lin sold her Four Seasons flat for seven-point-five mil? A young Mainland Chinese couple, paid in cash ..." Yep, this was definitely not her crowd. (Kwan, 2013, p. 185).

When Rachel heard the girls' conversation there, Rachel felt strange, she directly thought that these girls' eventdid not belong to her. They talked about an expensive branded bag, buying and selling property like a costly apartment or flat, and a classy restaurant. It was all about class, lifestyle, and money. Rachel as a simple girl who never talked about that, felt like she was in the wrong place at that time. She thought that they might not fit with Rachel. After knowing all of them. Rachel admitted that she had a culture shock there.

I think I'm still in a bit of a culture shock, or maybe it's cash shock. The way these people spend money—the houses and the planes and the dozens of maids—you need to see it with your own eyes. It's as if the recession isn't happening here. Everything is ultramodern and sparkling clean." (Kwan, 2013, p. 252).

Rachel felt that she got a culture shock there when she saw the people's lifestyle in Singapore. They were prosperous, and they had an extraordinary behavior to spend their money because they were all so wealthy. It can be seen in the party, they talked about buying expensive stuff, luxurious house, they even

had a private plane that they used to go to an island, and they also had some maids to serve them. Rachel even said that she might get a cash shock as she saw them spending much money for their lifestyle. Rachel never saw people who would spend that much money before she reached Singapore. It was because her circle in The United States mostly are scholar such lecturers and students, her friends' lifestyles were different with Nick's Singaporean friends. Besides that, she was also amazed by the modernity and cleanliness of the architecture in Singapore.

The following internal conflict faced by Rachel Chu was when she met Amanda Ling or Mandy at Araminta Lee's wedding. Mandy was Nick's ex-girlfriend when they were teenagers. It was all started when Rachel knew Mandy was talking about her past with Nick. It made Rachel doubt that Mandy had gotten over Nick.

Rachel had sensed a distinctly territorial vibe coming from Mandy back at the fort, making her wonder if Mandy was truly over Nick. Now, as she was getting dressed for the most formal event she had ever been invited to, she wondered how she would compare to Mandy and all the other impossibly chic women in Nick's orbit. (Kwan, 2013, p. 311).

Rachel also felt inferior again in this part, she thought that she was not worth comparing with Mandy and other Nick's Singaporean friends. All of them were very glamorous, wealthy, classy, while Rachel was not coming from a wealthy family like them. She felt that could not compete with them. She felt unconfident about her appearance, outfit, lifestyle, and social status.

Rachel stood facing the window, wiping the tears from her eyes. She was angry at herself for crying and confused by the tidal wave of emotion that had swept over her, but she just couldn't help it. The shock of the evening and the pent-up stress of the days leading up to it had brought her to this point, and now she was drained. (Kwan, 2013, p. 344).

Rachel faced very stressful days in Singapore. She got many pressure there. She could not blend in with Nick's friends because she felt that she was not a part of them. Nick never told her about his family and friends' circle. It made her very shocked, and she could not hold all of the sad feelings and emotions that she had held for days already. She was angry and exhausted from everything that had happened to her in Singapore. All the things she had faced made her sad, moreover that night when Rachel heard about Mandy and Nick's past, it made her finally cry. It was the mix of jealousy, doubt, angry and unconfident within herself.

### **3.1.2 External Conflict**

In this section, the researcher will discuss Rachel's external conflicts. It was a conflict faced by Rachel Chu and other characters in *Crazy Rich Asians*. Rachel Chu's journey to Singapore was unexpectedly bringing many problems for her. She had to face the people who were against her in various aspects such as her thoughts, principles, and relationships.

#### **3.1.2.1 Rachel Chu vs. Nick's Family**

Nick Young's plan for bringing his girlfriend, Rachel Chu, to meet his family was finally heard by his mother, Eleanor Young. The news about Nick, who already has a Chinese American girlfriend was spreading so fast. It was because of Nick's conversation when he was talking about traveling Asia with Rachel was overheard by someone who knows the Young family. It made Eleanor curious about who Rachel was and where did she from. Somehow, Rachel's background causes conflicts between her and Nick's family.



### 3.1.2.1.1 Rachel Chu vs. Eleanor Young

Eleanor Young is the mother of Nicholas Young, Rachel's boyfriend. As long as Nick lived in The United States, Eleanor never knew about Nick's relationship. Nick never told his mother about his relationship life. When Eleanor got a piece of news about Nick who will come to Singapore with a girl as his girlfriend, Eleanor was very curious about it. Then, Eleanor hired a private investigator to investigate Rachel's family background. She finally got many information and it was terrible information for her and her family.

“Don't be funny with me! Her family comes from some *ulu ulu*\* village in China that nobody has ever heard of. The investigator thinks that they were most likely working class. In other words, they are PEASANTS!” (Kwan, 2013, p. 89).

The investigator informed that Rachel's family was originally from *ulu ulu* village. It was Malay means a village that was far from civilization. Eleanor underestimated Rachel's family background because she was not from a city. She despised someone who was from a village. Moreover, the investigator informed that Rachel's family were peasants. It made Eleanor more unsure about Rachel Chu. She could not accept her to be with his only son. In her perspective, her son cannot have a relationship with someone who was not from a wealthy and respectable family like them. She viewed Rachel as unworthy of Nick Young, who came from a wealthy family. Eleanor as a Chinese mother, usually had an intervention over their children. Chinese mother usually guides their children rather than giving them their own control over something (Tseng, 2002, p. 67). That is why Eleanor wanted to control who would be Nick's girlfriend even though Nick was adult enough to decide his own life. Then, on an occasion,



Eleanor met her friend, and she thought about bringing Nick closer to her friend's daughter, who was Nick's ex-girlfriend when they were teenagers.

Nadine wanted to keep talking about Jacqueline, but Eleanor's mind was already elsewhere. So, Amanda had changed her mind and was coming home for Colin's wedding after all. How very interesting. As much as she detested Jacqueline, she had to admit that Amanda would be a superb match for Nicky. (Kwan, 2013, p. 184).

Jacqueline Ling is one of Eleanor's friends. She accidentally met her when Eleanor was shopping. Jacqueline informed that Amanda Ling, who lived in The United States changed her mind to attend Colin Khoo's wedding, Nick's best friend in Singapore. Eleanor found it might be the time to make Nick and Amanda close again after breaking up for a long time. She hoped, Amanda's attendance would make Nick fall in love with her again and leave Rachel, whom Eleanor thought was not suitable for his son. She preferred Amanda rather than Rachel because Amanda came from a wealthy family like Nick.

Eleanor stood up and approached Rachel, looking her in the eye. 'Rachel, I'm sure you're a nice girl. You must know I am doing you a favor. With your kind of background, you will be miserable in this family—' (Kwan, 2013, p. 367).

Eleanor told Rachel to back off and left Nick. She warned Rachel that the only way for her own best was leaving Nick Young from her life. Eleanor even made eye contact so that Rachel would understand Eleanor's intention. She wanted Rachel to go away from Nick because of her family background who she thought was not suitable to be a part of Young family. Besides that, Eleanor knew additional information that Rachel's father had not passed away. He was in jail. It made Eleanor more disagree with Nick's decision to marry Rachel.

“It’s worse than I thought. Far worse.”

“What do you mean?”

“Did you see that sapphire necklace on that girl?”

“How could I miss it? Yesterday she was wearing Ann Taylor Loft and today she’s in an Elie Saab gown from next season and those sapphires.”

“It’s my mother-in-law’s. It used to belong to the Grand Duchess Zoya of St. Petersburg, and now it’s been given to that girl. What’s more, the whole family seems to have fallen in love with her, even my bitchy sister-in-law,” Eleanor said, almost choking on the words. (Kwan, 2013, p. 326).

Eleanor felt threatened by Rachel’s existence whenever she saw Rachel wearing luxurious things. Rachel was wearing a blue sapphire necklace which was Eleanor’s mother-in-law’s. She could not think clearly. She saw a sign that her mother-in-law and her sister-in-law started loving Rachel. As she had known, that necklace was a gift from a Grand Duchess Zoya of St. Petersburg, which meant it must be an essential necklace for her mother-in-law, but it was given to Rachel. She felt that the situation was getting worse. She needed to make Rachel get out of her family sooner.

“Well, I love to cook. I can only dream of one day having a kitchen as beautiful as yours, Mrs. Young,” Rachel said. Eleanor smiled graciously. *I’m sure you can—with my son’s money.* (Kwan, 2013, p. 261)

Rachel was amazed by the interior of Eleanor’s kitchen. She complimented Eleanor, but it turned out to be bad in Eleanor’s thought. From that quotation, Eleanor assumed that Rachel was a materialistic woman. She had that kind of thought because she knew that Rachel was not wealthy, and she assumed that Rachel wanted to be with Nick because of Nick’s money, not because she truly loved him. That was why Eleanor could not easily trust Rachel Chu to be with her only son.

At that moment, Eleanor Young walked up the aisle in a gun metal gray pantsuit that shimmered subtly, clearly delighting in the attention she was getting. She caught sight of Rachel and forced a smile. “Oh, hello there! Look Philip, it’s Rachel Chu!” *In another designer dress. Every time I see this girl, she’s wearing something more expensive than the last time. My God, she must be draining Nicky’s money market account.* (Kwan, 2013, p. 293).

Eleanor and Philip Young met Rachel and Nick in a wedding ceremony of Colin Khoo. She was surprised when she saw Rachel’s outfit. She thought that dress was given by Nick, and it made Nick spend a lot of money just for Rachel. She became more worried about Nick. She believed that Rachel was a gold digger. She did not know that Rachel’s dress was bought by Peik Lin, her Singaporean best friend. Peik Lin bought that dress for Rachel on purpose so that Rachel could wear it at Colin Khoo’s wedding but, because Eleanor did not know that, she quickly judged Rachel.

“I assure you he’s very much alive,” Eleanor shot back.

“What?” Rachel said, confused.

“Rachel, you can stop pretending, lah. I know all about your father —”

“What?”

“Aiyah, look at her act!” Eleanor twisted her face mockingly. “You know as well as I do that your father is still alive!” (Kwan, 2013, p. 368).

Eleanor told Nick that Rachel’s father had not passed away, just like what Rachel had told everybody. Eleanor accused Rachel lied to everybody about her father. She accused that Rachel was acting. She cannot believe in Rachel. She did not know that Rachel also did not know anything about her father. It made Eleanor angry to Rachel because she thought that Rachel was manipulative and pretending like she did not understand anything.

### 3.1.2.1.2 Rachel Chu vs. Sang Su Yi

Sang Su Yi is Nick Young's grandmother. Nick used to call her *Ah Ma*, and it was a Chinese term that means grandmother. At first, Su Yi was not against Rachel Chu. Su Yi accepted Rachel as Nick's friend. She even served Rachel in her big house very well. She even prepared a private maid to help Rachel daily. Then, it was all changed because Eleanor told her about Rachel's family background. She turned to disagree with their relationship. She cannot accept a girl like Rachel, who came from Mainland China, and her father was in jail. Besides that, she knew that Rachel's mother was also faking their true identity in The United States. Su Yi directly went to Nick's place, who was about to propose Rachel. She intended to fail Nick's plan. She knew that as a grandchild, Nick would listen to her more than his mother because Nick spent his childhood in his *Ah Ma*'s house.

Eleanor took out a faded manila envelope, the same envelope she had been given by the investigator in Shenzhen. She placed three pieces of paper on the coffee table. One was a copy of Rachel's original birth certificate. The next was a 1992 press clipping about the jailing of a man named Zhou Fang Min, after he had ordered illegal cost-cutting measures that led to a construction accident that killed seventy-four workers in Shenzhen (HUO PENG CONDO TRAGEDY UPDATE: MONSTER JAILED AT LAST! the headline screamed). The third was a notice of a reward from the Zhou family, for the safe return of a baby named Zhou An Mei, who had been kidnapped by her mother, Kerry Ching, in 1981.

Nick's grandmother shook her head as she sipped her tea. "Imagine wanting to marry a girl from such a family! So disgraceful! Really, Nicky, what would Gong Gong say if he was alive? (Kwan, 2013, p. 368).

Rachel read the evidence that Eleanor had gotten from the private investigator that she had hired to investigate Rachel's family in China. He found that Rachel's family was a mess. Her father was in jail because of corruption, and

her mother kidnapped her when she was a baby and escaped to The United States. Rachel's mother even changed Rachel's name and her name to cover the lie. Su Yi judged Rachel's family as disgraceful right in front of Rachel. She cannot let her grandson marry Rachel. She reminded Nick again, hoping Nick would think about it, and left Rachel Chu. She even said that Nick must be shy to his *Gong-gong* means grandfather, if he really married to Rachel Chu, who came from criminal family background.

### **3.1.2.2 Rachel Chu vs. Nick's Friends**

When Nick and Rachel reached Singapore, they had a lot of schedules and events to attend, whether events that would involve both of them or events which should be attended separately. In those events, Rachel met a lot of new people. Most of them are Nick's friends. As a newcomer, there will be people who did not like Rachel and people who liked her. In this section, the researcher will discuss the conflicts between Rachel and Nick's friends.

#### **3.1.2.2.1 Rachel Chu vs. Araminta Lee's Invitees**

Araminta Lee, Colin Khoo's bride-to-be, held a bachelorette party, and Rachel Chu was invited. Besides that, Araminta invited many friends. Rachel Chu became a center of interest there because people knew that she was a girlfriend of Nick Young but, most of them did not like her, especially when they saw Rachel's appearance because she wore a simple outfit.

Rachel wandered into the next cabin and encountered two girls chattering animatedly. "Told you it was her!"  
"She's not at all what I was expecting. I mean, her family is supposed to be one of the richest in Taiwan, and she shows up looking like some—"

Upon noticing Rachel, the girls abruptly went silent and smiled sheepishly at her before fleeing down the corridor. (Kwan, 2013, p. 187).

The girls in that party talked about Rachel whenever she reached Araminta's place. Those two girls who talked about Rachel's appearance. Rachel, who was wearing a simple blue tunic, confused them because all that they knew was Rachel Chu was a rich girl from Chu Taipei Plastic. Rich girls like them would wear a classy branded and expensive outfit. They will spend their money just to look glamorous and elegant. They bought dresses from a well-known designer, but Rachel Chu did not look like them. She judged Rachel's outfit which look ordinary. They thought it did not represent her family.

As Rachel was trying on the white blouse in the dressing room, she overheard two girls in the next dressing room chatting away.  
“Did you see what she was wearing? Where did she get that cheap looking tunic top—Mango?”  
“How can you expect her to have any style? Think she gets it from reading American Vogue? Hahaha.”  
“Actually, Francesca says that she's not even ABC—she was born in Mainland China!”  
“I knew it! She's got that same desperate look that all my servants have.”  
“Well here's a chance for her to get some decent clothes at last!”  
“Just you watch, with all that Young money she's going to upgrade pretty damn quick!”  
“We'll see—all the money in the world can't buy you taste if you weren't born with it.” Rachel realized with a start that the girls were talking about her. (Kwan, 2013, p. 190).

Araminta held a free branded shopping at her bachelorette party. So, the girls had a chance to take everything at Araminta's bachelorette party, and it was all for free. They can take as much as they can. All of the stuff she provided were from well-known designers. When Rachel was trying one of a blouse she had chosen, she overheard two girls were talking about her. They degraded Rachel



only because of Rachel's outfit. They also equated Rachel's look with their maids. They said that Rachel's taste in dressing was not as good as theirs. They also accused Rachel would spend Young's money just to upgrade her appearance. Rachel realized that they talked about her because they mentioned the kind of outfit she wore.

#### **3.1.2.2.2 Rachel Chu vs. Amanda Ling**

Amanda Ling was Nick Young's ex-girlfriend when they were teenagers. Nick and Amanda used to be friends after they broke up. Amanda also lived in The United States, and she already had a boyfriend too. Amanda will not come to Colin Khoo's wedding but, her mother, Jacqueline Ling, forced her to come. She wanted her daughter to be Nick's girlfriend again. Especially after knowing that Nick Young already had Rachel Chu as his girlfriend. Then, when Amanda came and met Nick, she tried to make Rachel jealous.

“Well, I came up here to show Zvi the place where I received my first kiss. And would you believe it, Zvi, the boy who kissed me is standing right before us,” Mandy said, looking straight at Nick. Rachel turned to Nick with a raised eyebrow. (Kwan, 2013, p. 307).

Rachel and Nick were going to a cave at Colin Khoo's wedding party. Nick intended to take Rachel walking around. Suddenly, Amanda Ling showed up in front of them. Amanda was with Zvi, her new boyfriend. Nick and Amanda were greeted each other and introducing each of their partners. Then, Amanda, who knew that Nick was with Rachel, she began to make Rachel jealous by saying that the cave they were in was a place of Amanda and Nick had their first kiss. Rachel directly looked at Nick and raised her eyebrow as a sign of confusion.



“Oh, you live in New York too?” Rachel inquired.

“Yes, I do. What, has Nico never mentioned me to you? Nico, I’m so hurt,” Mandy said in mock outrage. She turned to Rachel with a placid smile.

“I feel like I have an unfair advantage, since I’ve heard loads about you.”

“You have?” Rachel couldn’t hide her look of surprise. Why had Nick never once mentioned this friend of his, this beautiful girl who inexplicably kept calling him Nico? Rachel gave Nick a measured look, but he simply smiled back, oblivious to the nagging thoughts filling her mind. (Kwan, 2013, p. 307).

Rachel asked whether Amanda lived in New York too or not. Then, Amanda told her that she lived there and she even knew lots of things about Rachel from Nick. Rachel was surprised, and she looked at Nick. She might feel as if he hid Amanda Ling from Rachel. Amanda tried to make Rachel jealous by saying that she knew about Rachel so, it would make her look like she knew about Nick more than her. Rachel was confused about why Amanda called her boyfriend Nico. It made Rachel felt curious and wondered. It seemed like they had a special nick name for each other because Nick called her Mandy instead of Amanda. Moreover Nick never told her about Amanda, Rachel felt that might be there was something Nick tried to hide about Amanda Ling.

“Why do you call Nick ‘Nico’?” Rachel turned to Mandy, the curiosity finally getting the better of her.

“Oh, when we were just teenagers, we spent one summer together on Capri. His auntie Catherine, the Thai one, took a villa there. We would follow the sun all day—start out sunbathing at the beach club by the Faraglioni rocks in the mornings, go swimming in Grotta Verde after lunch, and end up at Il Faro beach for sunset. We got so brown, and Nicky’s hair got so long—he looked practically Italian! That’s when the Italian kids we made friends with started calling him Nico and I was his Mandi. Oooh, it was such a glorious time.”

“Sounds like it,” Rachel said lightly, ignoring Mandy’s blatant attempt to make her jealous by resuming her conversation with Sophie. (Kwan, 2013, p. 333).

Rachel finally asked Amanda about Nick's nickname from her. Amanda showed up her closeness with Nick. She retell her past with Nick Young when they were teenagers. She even told Rachel that they spent summer in a villa of Nick's aunt. It seemed that Amanda tried to show that she was close to Nick's family since they were teenagers. Her answered was dramatic, she explained how sweet their moment at that time and Rachel realized that Amandawas trying to make her jealous. Rachel tried to be calm when she finally realized it.

#### **3.1.2.2.3 Rachel Chu vs. Francesca Shaw**

Francesca Shaw is one of Nick's friends. Nadine Shaw, her mother, is one of Eleanor Young's friends. So, they both had known each other for so long. When Francesca heard that Nick had Rachel Chu as a girlfriend, it seemed that she did not like it. She felt that Rachel was not suitable for Nick.

Rachel entered her villa, gladly returning to some peace and quiet after a draining day. None of the lights were on in the suite, but the bright silvery moonlight glimmered through the open screen doors, casting serpentine ripples along the walls. The sea was so still that the sound of the water lapping slowly against the wood stilts had a hypnotic effect. It was the perfect setting for a night swim in the ocean, something she'd never done. Rachel padded toward the bedroom for her bikini. As she passed the vanity table, she noticed that the leather satchel she'd left hanging on the chair seemed to be leaking some sort of liquid. She walked toward the bag and saw that it was completely drenched, with brownish water dripping out of the corner into a large puddle on the bedroom floor. What the hell happened? She turned on the lamp by the table and opened the front flap of her bag. She screamed, jerking backward in horror and knocking over the table lamp. Her bag was filled with a large fish that had been badly mutilated, blood seeping out from its gills. Violently scrawled on the vanity mirror above the chair in fish blood were the words "CATCH THIS, YOU GOLD-DIGGING CUNT!" (Kwan, 2013, p. 218).

Araminta let the girls have a night in her mother's luxurious villa. While other girls were having fun in the party, Rachel chose to take a rest in her room

that had been prepared by Araminta. Francesca Shaw was one of the invitees at Araminta's bachelorette party. Francesca was one of Nick's friends who did not like Rachel Chu. She tried to get rid of Rachel Chu from Nick's life. She gave Rachel a terror by putting a mutilated fish inside Rachel's bag. She also wrote a mockery of bad words in the mirror of Rachel's room. Rachel was shocked when she saw that inside her room. Francesca thought that Rachel Chu was a gold digger. She judged that Rachel might fall in love with Nick's money. She knew that Rachel was not a wealthy girl. That was the reason why she thought that Rachel was a materialistic girlfriend. By giving Rachel a terror, she hoped that Rachel could not stand with the situation at that time. She wished Rachel left Nick. She wanted Rachel to give up on Nick because of Nick's circle did not accept her at all. She wanted Rachel to realize on who she is and who Nick is, they were not belong to each other because of Rachel's family background and status.

“Oh, were you at Araminta's bachelorette party?” Nick asked.

“Ofcourse, I was. We all had such a gloooorious time, didn't we, Rachel? Such a beautiful island, and wasn't the food marvelous? I heard you particularly enjoyed the fish course.”

“Yes, it was quite an experience,” Rachel replied slowly, stunned by Francesca's remarks. (Kwan, 2013, p. 259).

Francesca was invited to Eleanor's house to have dinner. Nick, who saw Francesca, began to ask Francesca about her attendance in Araminta's bachelorette party, and surprisingly, Francesca said a sarcastic word which indicated that she was the one who put mutilated fish inside Rachel's bag. Rachel realized that Francesca was proudly confessing. Francesca thought that she had

succeeded. Rachel was shocked that she knew Francesca was the one who insulted and tried to frighten her.

“Rachel, it’s so impressive that you know your way around a spice rack,” Francesca chirped, her fake-friendly tone barely masking her disdain. “Apparently not as well as you know how to gut a fish,” Rachel commented.

“You girls went fishing?” Philip looked up from his laksa in surprise. “Oh, yes, we did. One of the girls even caught a bigger, endangered fish. We tried to convince her to put it back in the water, but she wouldn’t, and it ended up biting her very hard. There was blood squirting all over the place,” Francesca said, biting the head off her jumbo prawn and spitting it onto the side of the bowl. (Kwan, 2013, p. 261).

Francesca gave her compliment to Rachel when she talked about spices to Eleanor and her friends in her kitchen but, she did not really compliment her. It was a fake compliment. Then, Rachel replied sarcastically that she was not as good as Francesca, who knew how to gut a fish. It refers to the fish that Francesca used to frighten Rachel in the villa. That fish was cut into pieces inside her bag. When Philip Young asked them about fishing, Francesca explained very sarcastically and sadist to Philip. It refers to her anger to Rachel.

Francesca looked grave. “Don’t worry, Auntie Elle. I promised you I would see to it, and after tonight, Rachel Chu will wish she had never set foot on this island!” (Kwan, 2013, p. 327).

Francesca, who understands Eleanor’s fear, she told Eleanor that she could handle it. It was a sign that she would do something terrible for Rachel so that Rachel would not be around Nick anymore. She did it because she did not like Rachel too. She planned something that will make Rachel left Nick and his family so that, Nick’s family and Nick’s friends would not see her anymore. That was her intention since she saw Rachel for the first time because she thought an ordinary

mainland Chinese like Rachel was not suitable for Nick who came from a wealthy respectable family.

“No, honey, she’s not paying any attention to you. She was trying to make me jealous.”

“You?” Rachel asked, puzzled. Francesca smirked.

“Of course. That’s why she brought up the whole Capri story—I was there that summer too, you know. Mandy’s never gotten over how into me Nick was when we had our threesome.”

Rachel could feel her face get hot. Very hot. She wanted to bolt from the table but her legs seemed to have turned to glue. Sophie and Lauren stared at Francesca, mouths agape. Francesca looked straight into Rachel’s face and kept on chattering lightly.

“Oh, does Nick still do that trick with the underside of his tongue? Mandy was far too prissy to let him go down on her, but my God, on me he would stay down there for hours.” (Kwan, 2013, p. 334).

Francesca did not stop her effort to make Rachel jealous. She also helped Eleanor to make Rachel leave her only son, Nick. Rachel, who was sitting with some girls in Colin Khoo’s wedding listening to Mandy’s story about Nick when they were still together. Rachel thought that Mandy was trying to make her jealous, but suddenly Francesca said that Mandy was actually trying to make her jealous, not Rachel. Rachel was wondering about Francesca’s intention for saying such thing to her. Then, Francesca explained to Rachel about Nick and Francesca’s past. It was very vulgar and made Rachel felt jealous. That was one of her way to make Rachel leave Singapore and Nick forever.

#### **3.1.2.2.4 Rachel Chu vs. Parker Yeo**

Parker Yeo was one of the invitees in Araminta Lee’s bachelorette party. She was sitting next to Rachel in Araminta’s private airplane. Firstly, she was really nice to Rachel but, after knowing the truth about Rachel, she suddenly changed in a second.

“You’ll get used to Wandi. She’s a Meggaharto, you know. I don’t think you need me to tell you how that family is. By the way, I’m Parker Yeo. I know your cousin Vivian!” she said.

“I’m sorry, but I don’t have a cousin named Vivian,” Rachel replied in amusement

“Aren’t you Rachel Chu?”

“Yes.”

“Isn’t your cousin Vivian Chu? Doesn’t your family own Taipei Plastics?”

“Afraid not,” Rachel said, trying not to roll her eyes.

“My family is originally from China.”

“Oh sorry, my mistake. So, what does your family do?”

“Um, my mother is a real estate agent in the Palo Alto area. Who are these Taipei Plastics people everyone keeps talking about?” Parker simply smirked. “I’ll tell you, but excuse me for just one moment.” She unbuckled her seat belt and made a beeline for the back cabin. It was the last time Rachel would see her during the entire flight. (Kwan, 2013, p. 187).

Parker was one of the girls who thought that Rachel was coming from Chu Taipei Plastics family. She directly talked to Rachel about the Chu Taipei Plastics’ family. Rachel was confused because she did not understand anything about Chu Taipei Plastics. After knowing that Rachel was not a family member of Taipei Plastics, Parker left Rachel alone. She said that she would be back, but she was lying. She did not come back to the seat next to Rachel. It was because she did not want to sit beside her when she finally realized that Rachel was coming from an ordinary family, not a wealthy one, and not from a Chu Taipei Plastics who was one of the Taiwanese richest family. She viewed Rachel as unequal to her, who came from a wealthy family. She ignored and left Rachel alone. She also told others who were in Araminta’s airplane about Rachel’s family background after she left Rachel. It made others degraded Rachel Chu too.



### 3.1.2.3 Rachel Chu vs. Nicholas Young

Rachel Chu was getting ready to be introduced in Nicholas Young's family in Singapore. She did not know much about Nick's family since they had been dating for two years already. It was because Nick did not talk much about his family to Rachel. Then, she began to ask Nick about his family. She wanted to know how well did his family knew about Rachel just like her mom who knew well about Nick.

"I don't quite understand ... you mean your parents never knew about me in all this time?" Rachel asked in astonishment.

"Yes. I mean, no, they didn't. But you need to know this has absolutely nothing to do with you—" Nick began.

"Well, it's a little hard not to take it personally."

"Please don't. I'm sorry if it seems that way. It's just that ..." Nick swallowed nervously. "It's just that I've always tried to keep clear boundaries between my personal life and my family life, that's all." (Kwan, 2013, p. 58).

Rachel was shocked that Nick's parents has not known about Rachel yet after they had been dating for two years already. Nick tried to explain to Rachel that his relationship was a private thing and he did not tell any private thing to his parents. He viewed his love life as something personal that he did not really need to share to anybody included his family. Somehow, Rachel could not accept that easily, she thought that Nick hid her from her parents. She felt there might be something that he tried to hide between her and Nick's parents. She felt that it was weird to hide a relationship to parents moreover, that relationship was two years already.

"Rachel, you know how overbearing Chinese parents can be."

"Well, yeah, but it still wouldn't keep me from telling my mom about something as important as my boyfriend. I mean, my mom knew about you five minutes after our first date, and you were sitting down to dinner



with her—enjoying her winter melon soup—like, two months later.” (Kwan, 2013, p. 58).

Nick tried to explain about how Chinese parents were. He insisted to Rachel that Chinese parents like his parents were different with her Chinese mom. Rachel protested because she thought a relationship was not something to hide from parents. It was not a problem to tell the parents about his relationship. She compared him to her who had told about Nick to her mom since the first time they committed a relationship. She still could not accept Nick’s explanation.

“What are you doing?” Nick said in bafflement as he entered the bedroom. “What does it look like? I’m getting out of here!” “What? Why?” Nick frowned. “I’ve had enough of this shit! I refuse to be a sitting duck for all these crazy women in your life!” “What on earth are you talking about, Rachel?” Nick stared at her in confusion. He had never seen her this angry before. “I’m talking about Mandy and Francesca. And God only knows who else,” Rachel cried, continuing to grab her things from the armoire. (Kwan, 2013, p. 343).

Rachel Chu was very angry and jealous to Nick and Francesca after listening to Francesca’s story about Nick’s past with her. It made Rachel felt that she had to leave Nick and went home at that time. When Rachel reached Ah Ma’s house, she directly put all of her clothes to her luggage. Nick was confused when he saw Rachel’s act at that time. He asked Rachel about what was actually happen and what did they say so that, Rachel was really angry at that time. He did not know anything about what was happening to Rachel that whole week in Singapore. It was because Rachel never told him anything. Then, Rachel tried to speak up about Francesca and Mandy at that night.

“Nick, I need to go back to New York ... on my own.” “On your own?” Nick said in surprise.

“Yes. I don’t need you to cut short your summer vacation and fly back with me.”

“No, no, I’m as sick of this place as you are! I want to go home with you!”

Nick insisted.

“That’s the thing, Nick. I don’t think I can deal with that right now.”

Nick looked at her sadly. She was clearly still in a world of pain.

“And when I’m back in New York,” she continued, her voice getting shaky, “I don’t think we should see each other anymore.” (Kwan, 2013, p. 384)

When Rachel knew the truth about her family through Eleanor Young. She decided to left Nick and stayed in Peik Lin’s house for a while until she calmed down. Then, Nick came to Peik Lin’s house to meet Rachel. Rachel told Nick that she cannot be with Nick anymore. She said that even though she went back to New York, she did not want to be with Nick anymore. It was because she felt that their relationship will never work because Nick’s family did not give him permission to marry Rachel who was not rich. Especially after they knew that Rachel’s family background was not suitable as the qualification of Nick’s family. They cannot accept Rachel as Nick’s future wife. Rachel tried to let Nick go slowly even though they were actually still in love. Nick tried to prevent Rachel to went back alone to New York. He did not want Rachel go. He will go wherever she was.

#### **3.1.2.4 Rachel Chu vs. Kerry Chu**

Rachel Chu and Kerry Chu were such a mother and daughter goals. They were very supportive to each other. Kerry was a very independent mother and she raised a very smart daughter like Rachel. It seemed like they never had any serious issue until one day, when Rachel knew the truth about her family, the conflict between Rachel and Kerry began.

“I just need to know one thing, Mom: Is my father still alive?” There was a fraction of a pause on the other end of the line.

“What are you talking about, daughter? Your father died when you were a baby. You know that.”

Rachel dug her nails into the plush carpeting.

“I’m going to ask you one more time: Is. My. Father. Alive?”

“I don’t understand. What have you heard?”

“Yes or no, Mom. Don’t waste my fucking time!” she spat out.

Kerry gasped at the force of Rachel’s anger. It sounded like she was in the next room.

“Daughter, you need to calm down.” (Kwan, 2013, p. 378).

Eleanor told Rachel about her father who actually was still alive. She did not know anything about it. Her mother told her that her father had passed away since she was a baby because of an accident. When her mother called her, she directly asked about it. She was really angry and disappointed to her mother. She even said terrible words and shouted to her mother so loud because she felt that her mother had been lying to her this whole time. She felt cheated by her own mother. She never thought that her mother could do this. She felt broken because she did not know anything this whole time.

“You’re a liar! A kidnapper! You’ve deprived me from knowing my father, my real family. How could you, Mom?”

“You don’t know what a hateful man he was. You don’t understand what I went through.”

“That’s not the point, Mom. You lied to me. About the most important thing in my life.” Rachel shuddered as she broke down in sobs. (Kwan, 2013, p. 379).

Rachel who had read some evidences from Eleanor, knew that her mother lied to her. Even though Kerry tried to explain but Rachel did not want to listen. She felt disappointed to her mother. A mother who lived with her for twenty-nine years was a liar. She could not easily accept the reality that her mom hid her father and her real family background in her whole life.

“I don’t know what to believe anymore, Mom. Who can I trust now? My name isn’t even real. WHAT’S MY REAL NAME?”

“I changed your name to protect you!”

“I don’t know who the fuck I am anymore.”

“You’re my daughter! My precious daughter!” Kerry cried, feeling utterly helpless standing in her kitchen in California while her daughter’s heart was breaking somewhere in Singapore. (Kwan, 2013, p. 379).

Rachel felt that she could not understand who she was actually. She was shocked and disappointed in the same time knowing that her mother changed their identity. She knew that her mother even changed her whole name from Zhou An Mei to be Rachel Chu and her mother last name from Kerry Ching to be Kerry Chu. In that conversation, when Rachel was angry, her mother tried to calm down her daughter. She kept reminding that Rachel is her daughter no matter what. No matter how were their identity or family background. Kerry as a mother worried about Rachel’s condition especially, Rachel was not with her. Rachel was far away in Singapore while she was in The United States.

“Daughter, I know you didn’t want to see me, but I needed to tell you this myself: Zhou Fang Min is not your father.”

“I’m not listening to you anymore, Mom. I’m tired of all the lies. I’ve read the articles about my kidnapping, and Mr. Goh’s Chinese lawyers have already been in touch with my father. He’s very eager to meet me.” Rachel was adamant. Kerry looked pleadingly into her daughter’s eyes.

“Please believe me —you don’t want to meet him. Your father is not the man in Dongguan Prison. Your father is someone else, someone I truly loved.” “Oh great, now you’re telling me I’m the illegitimate daughter of some otherguy?” Rachel could feel the torrent of blood rushing into her head, and she felt as if she was back in that horrific drawing room in Cameron Highlands. (Kwan, 2013, p. 404).

Kerry Chu finally met Rachel in Singapore. Nick Young picked her up with his airplane. When she arrived, she explained to Rachel that everything she had heard and she had read were wrong information. She wanted to explain the

truth but Rachel cannot easily trust her mother's explanation. Moreover, Rachel had read everything by herself when Eleanor gave her the articles she had from the investigator as the evidence.

### **3.1.3 The Causes of Conflicts**

After analyzing the kinds of conflicts faced by Rachel Chu in the novel. The researcher found the causes that created conflicts. It can be seen in the analysis above that there are many factors that causes conflicts. First is cultural differences, Rachel Chu who was an Asian Immigrant and has moved to the United States since she was a baby, had lack of knowledge about Chinese culture. It was because of her mother has become liberal as American and she did not teach her about Chinese culture even though they were originally Chinese. It is shown in the analysis above, Rachel did not know that Chinese parents especially those who lived in Asia did not let their children sleeping together or living together before marriage. For Rachel, who lived in the United States, live together before marriage is not a problem. Moreover, her mom, Kerry Chu never forbid her to do so.

The first time Rachel met Nick's mom, Eleanor Young, she brought Mandarin oranges. Because of Rachel's lack of knowledge about Chinese culture, she did not know what does Mandarin oranges mean and what occasion which usually need to bring Mandarin oranges. It made Eleanor dislike Rachel. Usually, people brought Mandarin oranges for Chinese new year tradition. People did not bring them for visiting their boyfriend or girlfriend's parents. Then, Rachel's gesture when she bowed her head in front of Eleanor Young. That gesture was not

belong to Chinese culture, it belonged to Japanese culture. It made Eleanor thought Rachel as stupid girl because of her lack of knowledge about Chinese culture. It can be seen in the following quotation.

Rachel bowed her head and presented her gift of oranges. “How lovely! Aiyah, you really shouldn’t have!” Eleanor replied graciously. Why in the world did she bring mandarin oranges—does she think it’s Chinese New Year? And why is she bowing like some stupid Japanese geisha? (Kwan, 2013, p. 256).

Second, because of Rachel’s family background. Rachel Chu who was originally mainland Chinese made Nick’s family who was overseas Chinese cannot accept her. It was because overseas Chinese felt that they are better than mainland Chinese. They felt more advance because their family look for money and education outside China since long time ago before communist left China.

“Aiyah—don’t contradict me! I’ll tell you how she’s being deceitful. At first, the private investigator told me she was ABC, but then after more digging he found out that she’s not even truly American-born Chinese. She was born in Mainland China and went to America when she was six months old.” (Kwan, 2013, p. 89).

“I’m sure Rachel is a nice girl, but she can never be your wife. “She is just not suitable for you, Nicky. She does not come from the right background.”

“Nobody is ever going to come from ‘the right background’ in your eyes,” Nick scoffed.

“I’m only telling you what everyone is already thinking, Nick. You haven’t heard the horrible things I’ve heard. Do you know her family comes from Mainland China?” (Kwan, 2013, p. 350).

Mainland Chinese is a Chinese who lived in the mainland area of Republic China, in comparison, Overseas Chinese defined as Chinese who live outside China, but it excludes Chinese tourists who live in a short time (Wong, 2016, p. 349).



Then, based on the analysis above it is found that Rachel's father who was a criminal and Kerry Chu, Rachel's mom, who was faking their identity made it even worse. Nick's family cannot agree that Rachel will be Nick's future wife. It made Eleanor Young and Sang Su Yi asked Rachel to leave Nick and accused her as a manipulative girl who was pretending that she did not know anything and act innocent.

### **3.2 How is Rachel Chu's Conflicts can be Solved**

Conflicts would not always last. There must be a time that the character would find a way to solve the conflicts. Just like Rachel Chu, she would not always face conflicts. After all the ups and downs that she had faced in her life since she came to Singapore which made her down and frustration. All of the conflicts she faced finally can be overcome. It was all because of the help of Nicholas Young, her boyfriend.

#### **3.2.1 An advice from Colin Khoo**

Nick Young was really confused to solve his relationship problem since that night in his Ah Ma's villa in Cameron Highland, Malaysia. He did not go home. He stayed in Colin Khoo's house while Colin was having a honeymoon trip. He could not think clearly and worried a lot about Rachel's condition.

Surprisingly, Colin suddenly went home because he could feel that his best friend, Nick Young was not in a good condition.

“Well, Nicky, I hate to point out the obvious, but here's this tiny bird that's been trying to get through a huge bulletproof glass wall. A totally impossible situation. You tell me it's been here every day pecking away persistently for ten minutes. Well, today the glass wall came down.”



“So you’re saying I should free the bird? I should just let Rachel go?”  
Colin gave Nick an exasperated look.  
“No, you idiot! If you love Rachel as much as you say you do, then you need to be that blue jay for her.”  
“Okay, so what would the blue jay do?” Nick asked.  
“He would never give up trying. He would take an impossible situation and make everything possible.” (Kwan, 2013, p. 393).

Nick Young who stayed in Colin Khoo’s for days knew that every morning there was a Blue Jay bird in Colin’s glass roof. He told that to Colin. By Nick’s story, Colin gave an advice for Nick to solve his problem with Rachel. To save his relationship. Colin told him to be a Blue Jay which never gave up on any situation, no matter how hard it was but Blue Jay would always try and try every day. It means, no matter how Rachel tried to avoid Nick, Nick must proof Rachel that he would never leave and would fight for their relationship even though his family never gave him permission.

### **3.2.2 Nick Picked Up Kerry Chu**

Nick directly did what Colin had said to him. He directly picked up Kerry Chu with his airplane in The United States and brought her to Singapore. He tried to stop Rachel and Peik Lin who wanted to go to China to meet Rachel’s father in jail.

“Nick, we have a plane to catch,” she said in frustration.  
“I appreciate that you want to help, but I really don’t want you to go to China.”  
“I’m not going to China, Rachel. I’m bringing China to you,” Nick said, flashing a smile. (Kwan, 2013, p. 403).

Nick blocked Peik Lin’s car which was about to go to airport to have a flight to China. Rachel felt annoyed by Nick because she had to go quickly before the plane left them. Nick kept blocking them even though Rachel begged him to

leave but, suddenly Nick showed Rachel that he brought her mother to Singapore at that time.

### 3.2.3 Kerry Chu's Explanation

After Kerry begged Rachel for not going to China, she began to explain anything that was actually happen in their past.

“Daughter, I have never told this story to anyone, and it is something I always intended to spare you from. I hope you will not judge me, and that you will listen with an open mind, an open heart.” (Kwan, 2013, p. 410).

Kerry finally told Rachel the real story. It was a story she never wished to tell to Rachel actually. She explained that Zhou Fang Min, someone who was in jail, the one who was Kerry ex husband was not a biological father of Rachel Chu. Zhou Fang Min was a bad husband, he did violence to Kerry because he liked to drunk. There was someone, he was Kao Wei, Kerry Chu's neighbor who saved her from Zhou Fang Min. She said Kao Wei was Rachel's biological father.

“For the next few months, Kao Wei would comfort me after every bad fight and even help me devise tactics to avoid my husband. I would buy sleeping pills, crush them up, and put them into his wine so that he would fall asleep before he could get violent. I would invite his friends over for dinner and make them stay as late as possible, until he passed out drunk. Kao Wei even put a stronger lock on the toilet door so that it would be harder for Fang Min to break through. Slowly but surely, Kao Wei and I fell in love. He was my only friend in the building, in the whole city, actually. And yes, we started to have an affair. But then one day we were almost caught, and I forced myself to end it, for Kao Wei's sake, because I feared Fang Min would kill him if he ever found out. A few weeks later, I realized I was pregnant with you, and I knew Kao Wei was the father.” (Kwan, 2013, p. 413).

Kerry admitted that she had a n affair with Kao Wei and they fell in love.

She fell in love with his kindness who always help her to avoid her husband from

hurting her. Kerry was really sure that Rachel was Kao Wei's daughter not Zhou Fang Min's.

"Wait a minute. How did you know for sure he was the father?" Rachel asked, uncrossing her arms and leaning back against the window.  
"Trust me, Rachel, I just knew."  
"But how? This was back before DNA testing."  
"you look so much like Kao Wei, there is no mistaking that he is your father. Kao Wei had beautiful, angular features like you do. And you have his refined lips." (Kwan, 2013, p. 413).

Rachel was wondering how could her mother was really sure that she was Kao Wei's daughter even though she never had any DNA test. Kerry convinced Rachel by describing how much she look liked Kao Wei physically.

#### **3.2.4 Rachel's Apology**

After listening to her mother's explanation. Rachel finally could understand what was actually they had been through in the past. She started ask for forgiveness to her mother.

"I'm so sorry. So sorry for everything ... for all the terrible things I said to you on the phone."  
"I know, Rachel."  
"I never knew ... I never could have imagined what you were forced to go through." Kerry looked at her daughter affectionately, tears running down her cheeks.  
"I'm sorry I never told you the truth. I wanted so much never to burden you with my mistakes."  
"Oh Mom," Rachel sobbed, clinging to her mother ever more tightly. (Kwan, 2013, p. 418).

Rachel felt regret for all the terrible words she had said on the phone when she called her mother for asking about the truth. She felt sorry for everything that happened in her mother's past. She could not even imagine if she was in her mother's position at that time. Kerry Chu, also asked for apologize to her daughter

for never telling the truth. Besides that, Rachel also thanked Nick who helped her a lot and always gave her accompanion.

“Thank you for bringing my mom here.”

“Oh, it was the least I could do.” (Kwan, 2013, p. 421).

After all of the conflicts that Rachel had been through in her family and relationship with a wealthy guy, Nicholas Young, she finally could find the way to save her relation with her mother and her relationship with his boyfriend. It was because of Nick who never gave up on Rachel no matter what had happened. He managed to convince Rachel that they belong together. He also helped Rachel to meet her mother to clear all of the problems they had. At the end, Rachel said thank you for the struggle he had faced just for her.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **CONCLUSION**

According to the study above, it can be seen That Rachel Chu as a main Character of *Crazy Rich Asians* had to face many conflicts in her life, especially in her relationship with Nicholas Young. Rachel Chu as a girlfriend never knew that she dated a guy from a wealthy family in Singapore. It was all started when she accepted Nicholas' offer to join him for having a summer trip around Asia with him. There are two types of conflicts she faced, first is internal conflict and second is external conflict.

Rachel Chu needed to deal with Internal conflicts since the beginning of the story. Internal Conflict is a conflict which experienced by the character with his or her own mind or heart. First, Rachel's difficulty about deciding whether she

accepted Nick's offer or not. Second, Rachel's confusion of Nick's intention for asking her to join him because he wanted to introduce Rachel to his family in Singapore. Third, Rachel's confusion about sleeping arrangement in Singapore when they reached there. She doubted that Nick would understand about their sleeping arrangement in Singapore. Fourth, Rachel felt inferior with Nick's friends. They wore expensive things. Her lack of information about Nick's circle in Singapore made her felt strange. Fifth, Rachel's culture shock, she felt that as soon as she reached there. It was because she met wealthy families there with their luxurious life style that she had never been before. Sixth, Rachel felt unworthy for Nick. After knowing about Amanda Ling, Nick's ex-girlfriend who was also coming from a wealthy family. She felt that her style cannot be compared with Amanda Ling's style. Seventh, Rachel's stressful condition. After experienced being in Nick's circle. She felt that she could not blend in with them.

Besides that, Rachel also experienced external conflicts. It was a conflict that faced by a character with another character or nature. In *Crazy Rich Asians*, Rachel only experienced conflicts with another character. First, a conflict between Rachel Chu and Nick's family. It started with a conflict with Nick's mom, Eleanor Young. Eleanor disagreed with Nick and Rachel's relationship after she knew that Rachel was not from a Rich family and had a criminal family background. Then, Sang Su Yi, Nick's grandma did not give Nick permission to marry Rachel Chu because of the information she got from her daughter in-law.

Second, conflicts between Rachel and Nick's friends. They were two Araminta Lee's invitees, Amanda Ling, Francesca Shaw and Parker Yeo. All of

them viewed Rachel as a person from low caste. They thought a girl like Rachel was not worth for Nicholas Young who came from a rich family. They also thought that Rachel only wanted Nick's money. They even frightened Rachel and tried to make Rachel jealous so that, she could leave Nick Young.

Third, a conflict between Rachel Chu and Nick Young. The conflict began when Rachel knew that Nick actually never told her parents about her even though they had been dating for two years already. Rachel felt that Nick hid her from his family. Then, when Rachel knew that Nick's mother and grandma did not give them permission to have married, Rachel directly left them and avoid Nick Young.

The last, a conflict between Rachel Chu and Kerry Chu, her mother. It started when Rachel finally knew about her real family background because Eleanor Young hired an investigator to investigate Rachel's family in China. Rachel was shocked and she was disappointed because her mother lied to her about her actual father and changed their real name before they went to The United States when she was a baby.

After analyzing the conflicts, the researcher found the causes of the conflicts. First, the researcher found that Rachel's conflicts happened because of cultural differences. It can be seen from Rachel's lack of knowledge about Chinese culture. The second causes was because of Rachel's family background. Rachel's family background made Nicholas Young's family disagree even though it had happened in the past.



Furthermore, this study also analyzes how Rachel's conflicts can be solved in the novel. The researcher finds that Nick Young was the one who put the effort to solve the conflicts. He did it to save his relationship with Rachel Chu. He accepted and did his best friend's advice, Colin Khoo. Colin wanted Nick to never gave up on the hard situation. He came to Rachel with Kerry Chu. He picked up Kerry Chu and brought her to Singapore to meet her daughter and explained everything. Finally, the problem was clear, Kerry and Rachel forgave each other. Rachel and Nick's also save their relationship.

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