

## **Finding Place: Struggling for Identity in Children's literature by Chinese-American Writers**

The dilemma of Chinese-American children's identity is an important focus of the realistic children's literature by Chinese American writers. Most protagonists are "ABC" including two types: one is the pure offspring of Chinese parents, the other is born of Chinese- American parentage. This paper selects some typical cases such as Wendy Wan-long Shang's *The Great Wall of Lucy Wu*, Andrea Cheng's *The Year of the Book*, Joyce Lee Wong's *Seeing Emily*, Laurence Yep's *Thief of Hearts* and *Child of the Owl*, Jean Kwork's *Girl in Translation* and so on to explore children's identity dislocation during their growth. They face the disturbance, confusion and frustration in their ethnic and cultural identity. Most of them are in marginalized position at school, being ignored, rejected or teased. They try to change their "outsider" status through their goodwill and struggles for equality. At home, they also have conflicts with their parents who are influenced by different ethnic cultures. The children with double identity start to know about Chinese heritage and get the cultural confidence, striving to look for the balance between two cultures and find their individual place. Understanding, forgiveness and respect to each other are crucial factors to help them build their flexible cultural identity. This paper will employ the theories of multi-culture, identity and narratology to analyze characters' cultural choice behind their behavior, the implicit cultural meanings of the stereotypes of characters, the linear narrative structure and the skill of symbolism. In addition, the comparison with Western writers' works with the same subject will also be studied to discover the similarities and differences, especially in their cultural standpoint and attitudes. This research aims to bring insights into the construction of identity from the marginalized ethnics and all marginalized groups as well, revealing the depressed or challenging "voices".