

The movie *The Wedding Banquet* talk about the sensitive topic which is homosexual. Homosexual is a serious topic which has been discussed until now. I think making this movie is a brave discussion in the 90s which everyone saw to avoid this sensitive topic. That is why the mood of the movie itself is interesting and relax most of the time. It is obvious showed at the official trailer which promoted for the west countries. The scenes of showing the contrast between traditional and modern create different funny moments which avoid the movie become serious and unacceptable for the Chinese audiences and easier to bring this sensitive topic to the movie. The movie aims to show the different between tradition and modern.

The movie showed the culture between traditional and modern as a contract. In traditional culture, marriage and find a lover is used for producing a son to continuous the family name. Personal feeling and loving each other is not the first consideration for a family. In this situation, the emotion of love is being depressed. Marriage is not a personal or a couple business but is about the whole family. In the movie, Mr. Gao is a traditional father who wants Wai-Tung to marry a fine woman and have a son for him to continuous his family name. In the beginning of the movie, Wai-Tung's parents often introduce some girls to him and hope he can find a lover to marry.

On the other hand, although Wai-Tung has the free love but whether the woman should be married or not are still base on the parents to decide. Wai-Tung needs to take his "girlfriend" to meet his parents first. Mr. Gao looked at Wei-Wei to see whether she is good for having a baby or not at the airport. Therefore, marriage is use to continuous family name and satisfy the family.

In modern culture, marriage is more focus on feeling and emotion. Love is about the couple but seldom interrupted by family. Love is freedom and base on human emotion to develop. Marrying a lover is not bases on continuous the family name. It is about the satisfied of loving each other. Producing a son to continuous the family name is not the most important things to consider. In Hong Kong, free love is very common and many couples do not choose to have children since they prefer to enjoy their life more than continuous their family name which causes the decreasing of the

birth rate. Moreover, love should not be depressed in modern thought. Wai-Tung thinks that he is happy when he and Simons love each other. It shows that the feeling of love is no gender different. Homosexual are becoming more acceptable nowadays as people believe love is a personal aspect and everyone have the right to have free love. For example, US have legal marry for homosexual people. Therefore, free love is important in the modern culture. Marriage and love are separated by the use of the continuous family name. Marriage is to satisfy lover and yourself.

Another culture conflict is the women's status is different from traditional. In the movie, Wei-Wei was alone at the US and live by herself and have her own hobby and career to develop. Unlike the traditional woman who needs to rely on her husband. One scene showed that Mrs. Gao cried to Wei-Wei about her son. Mrs. Gao said, "I admire nowadays women who have the good education, can make the own decision and do not need to rely on men." Wei-Wei said she has her own future and Mr. Gao said "husband and children are still important to women. You are still young and do not understand it". This scene showed that traditional woman need to rely on men and modern women have more right to control their future.

This conflict of modern and traditional thought also creates a very nervous and tension mood during the development of the fake marry because the audiences do not know when the lie will be uncovered.

The movie also showed other Chinese tradition thought. Patriarchy is a culture that traditional families care about. Even though he has known that his son is gay. when Mr. Gao told Simon that he has known his son gay, he still wants the baby to be birth and hope the baby is a boy. So, he wanted Simon to keep the secret in order to get a grandson. When Mrs. Gao cried on Wei-Wei, she told that she wanted her and want the grandson. Therefore, she feels scared when Wei-Wei went to get the abortion.

In addition, the movie shows that Chinese people value friendship and gratitude. One scene is about Mr. Gao met his old friends Chan. When Chan knew that Wi-Tung has a perfunctory wedding. He decides to help Mr. Gao to organize a big wedding banquet because he respects Mr. Gao.

Besides, the movie is a movement of getting international because this movie is not

only suitable for Chinese but also other western countries. Foreigners can also know the Chinese culture through this movie. It is a movie which can be showed and be understood by the foreigners. Also, the film shows the culture different between West and East. Such culture exchange creates the interesting scene to making this film less serious.

The movie shows a typical Chinese family structure and patriarchy is deeply happening in Gao family. The father is the heart of the family. He has the biggest right to make the decision in a family and his posterity need to follow his rule and order. When they having lunch and dinner, the father usually sit in the middle of the desk. The whole family needs to wait for him to taste the food. Also, the relationship between father and son is a not too closed. However, the mother is a character who is softer and seem to have a closer relationship with her son. Mrs. Gao always relies on her husband and let husband make the decisions. But she also is a character who is easier communicate with her son. The traditional women are good at housework. In the movie, Mrs. Gao often takes care of the garden of Simon's house. When Wai decides to have a simple civil marriage, mother Gao is the one to argue with Wai-Tung and have the discussion. However, father Gao's facial express is really unhappy which give him a dignified image of a heart of the family. Also, when Wai decides to come out of the closet, he tells his mom first. Not only because his father had the stroke but also mother seem to be a softer character to understand Wai's thoughts. In this typical Chinese family, they also want Wei-Wei to be a traditional girl who is good at doing housework and take care her husband. When Gao family stay in Simon home, Wei-Wei often needs to pretend she was cooking the food because she needs to show the image of a virtuous traditional woman.

Moreover, Chinese people care about filial piety (孝順) which means the son and daughter need to respect and follow almost anything parents have said. In the movie, Wai-Tung has a simple civil marriage which did not follow the old traditional to organize a wedding banquet which makes his parents unhappy. It is not a respectful behavior to his parents. Therefore, Old Chan said Wai-Tung is not filial piety in the Chinese restaurant.

But in the West, family members do not have any special role to follow and do not have any special typical character to follow. The Family members are equal to each

other and respect to each other. Also, the relationship between parents and children are much closer and warm. Also, the word filial piety is not familiar on the west. Western people cannot understand the concept of filial piety. Therefore, in western, children respect their parents but do not mean they need to follow all the decision that parents made.

In Chinese culture, wedding banquet is very important to a family because wedding banquet is used for parents to announce the happy moment to their relatives. It means to bring honor to one's ancestors. They celebrate the moment of their son or daughter being an adult and parents will be so proud of their children. The wedding banquet also shows that traditional Chinese value their family reputation. A good wedding banquet can show other people that your family have a great reputation and have unordinary family status. Therefore, Mr. Gao and Mrs. Gao really want Wei-Wei and Wai-Tung to have an official wedding banquet. When they hear Wai-Tung do not organize the banquet, their facial express was totally unhappy and disappointed. Mrs. Gao even cried after the civil marriage. When Chan said that he should help Gao family to organize a banquet, two parents laugh immediately. The change of the facial expression on two parents is a big contrast to show that how wedding banquet is important to the traditional Chinese people.

However, marriage is a personal aspect for a couple in western. A wedding does not mean any family reputation. It is the ceremony for relatives to bless a couple. The wedding is different to Chinese. In Chinese wedding ceremony, they play some game and some of them are even involved sexual innuendo. The sex culture in Chinese is conservation. But Wedding means that a family has the chance to continue family name by birthing a son. Therefore, sexual innuendo game often organized at the wedding night. As Ang Lee showed in the film and said "You're witnessing the results of 5000 years of sexual repression" to the foreigners who came to the wedding. Chinese people always depress their sexual repression.

All in all, I think this film shows the culture different between western and eastern. It also creates a big conflict to the traditional and modern culture. I think this film aims to let the western countries to know about the Chinese culture and show that in the Chinese family, a reputation of a father is important and dignified. My personal feeling about this film is that I have known that life is full of unexpected, sometimes

you just need to compromise and let the time flow. In the movie, I think Mr. Gao compromise it since he gave money to Simon and said he watch he hears and he learns. He gave the money to him because he wants Simon to take care of Wai-Tung. As a traditional father, it is a surprise for me to know that he could compromise. Even Mr. Gao himself do not know why he can accept Wai-Tung is gay. Therefore, he finally said he don't know too to Simon. I believe Chinese culture is changing and modern culture becomes more international.