

# [ Women’s Silence and ‘Avoiding Land Mines’ in Amy Tan’s *The Kitchen God’s Wife* ]

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**[Abstract]** *This paper discusses Amy Tan’s novel The Kitchen God’s Wife (1991). Its aim is to interpret the theme of women’s silence between mother and daughter, including intercultural impacts of raising Chinese American girls by Chinese mothers. The intergenerational and intercultural splits between Chinese mother and her “more-American” daughter, when juxtaposed with each other, are deepened by the unbearable silence and secrets kept by the women. Both women’s attitudes seem to be more apparent due to a brief outline of Confucius teachings that continuously dominated twentieth-century China.*

**[Keywords]** *women’s silence; feminism; ethnicity; Chinese American; identity; The Kitchen God’s Wife; mother-daughter relationship; Confucianism*