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## Entwined Heartstrings across Horizons: Investigating Asian American Romance in the Novel *How to be an American Housewife* by Margaret Dilloway in the Light of Corpus Linguistics

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### Abstract

This research article seeks to investigate the Asian American romance depicted in novel *How to be an American Housewife* by Margaret Dilloway by focusing on the characters of an Asian American woman Shoko and an American GI Charlie by applying corpus linguistic driven approach. The analysis reveals that the corpus linguistics technique helps to provide the certain results which are beneficial in refining and supporting in probing the intuitive observations on the emotional attachment and relationship of Shoko and Charlie in the post-world war II era. This approach to corpus study has conclusively revealed that Charlie is fascinated by the Japanese culture while the pervasiveness of recurring economic benefits and social stability along with the aspect of emotional attachment play a key role for Shoko to search for a husband outside her native land Japan and settle in America. The study also spotlights the dynamics of cross-cultural relationships and marriages along with the issues of adjustment for Asian immigrants in America in the aftermaths of WWII. Regardless of great prospect for the study of Asian American romantic relations, it is recommended that the understanding and knowledge of the text under discussion is significant in evaluating and interpreting the quantitative data by employing corpus technique in order to find out other aspects of Asian American literature.

**Keywords:** Asian American, WWII, Romance, AntConc, Corpus Linguistics.

### Introduction

The novel *How to Be an American Housewife* by Margaret Dilloway is an exciting investigation of the experiences of Asian immigrants in America, the process of cultural assimilation as well as the intricate dynamics within the Asian American society. The novel provides a nuanced portrayal of the lives of Japanese American by intertwining the themes of romance, identity and the generational gap as well. The romance between the Japanese woman Shoko and an American GI Charlie in the post WWII era occupies the heart of the story of the novel. Their relationship started in an era when the relation between USA and Japan were fraught with tensions. The romantic involvement of Shoko with Charlie also represents the extensive cultural encounters and the struggle of immigrants for assimilation into the host American society. In this way, the journey of Shoko to America is not mere her physical relocation but a deep emotional transformation as well. Through this journey, she is able navigate a new cultural landscape of USA while maintaining her own connections with her own cultural heritage.

It is important to note that the certain corpus techniques possess the logical proficiency which seems helpful in getting enlightened awareness and knowledge that can be employed in producing in a kind of systematic realization of literary meanings and the organization of the language in a literary work. Corpus linguistics furnishes a significant methodology for the exploration of literature by utilizing the computational techniques on the literary text which is recognized as corpora. This procedure facilitates the researchers to unearth literary motif, linguistics features and trends that might not be probed and brought to surface through the close reading. The application of corpus linguistics also helps the research to investigate the distinctive pattern of sentence structure, linguistic pattern and vocabulary use that pave the way for the exploration of the particular themes as well as the cultural references across the literary text under investigation. As a whole, corpus linguistics provides a quantitative as well as a systematic approach for the analysis of the literary texts by harmonizing the traditional qualitative method by offering the innovative channels for the investigation of dynamic interaction of language, culture and literature. This research article is aimed at the investigation of the novel *How to be an American Housewife* by Margaret Dilloway by applying the computational techniques on the textual data by focusing on the characters of Shoko and Charlie with the aim to unearth their romantic relationship which ultimately paved the way for their marriage.

### Literature Review

While, reviewing the related literature, it is important to highlight that Asian American literature emerges as a crucial platform for the confluence of minority discourse and literary discourse while portraying the complexities of identities and the various challenges of Asian immigrants in America. In the context of literary discourse, the particular use of language in the narrative and the exploration of the certain themes such as cultural heritage, identity and assimilation are important as well. Similarly, through the Minority discourse, the Asian American literature also challenges the mainstream cultural narratives and seeks to affirm and reclaim the Asian American identity. In this way, the Asian American literature provides a counter-narrative to the dominant representations and presents the intricate portrayals that proclaims the cultural diversity and resists the stereotypes as well.

While, Ana in 2015 is of the view that the “Asian American cultural works call into question the identification of Asians as signifiers of globalization. In doing so, they diagnose belonging in our current era of neoliberalism” (p.218). In this way, Asian American literature enriches the literary canon by intertwining the minority and literary discourse while it also advocates for equity and social justice in the host American society. It also encourages readers to foster a deeper understanding of the Asian American experiences which is a handy contribution towards the establishment of an empathetic and inclusive society. It is important to note that “the spirit of being American is a central part of the experience of citizenship in which US national culture powerfully models not only who ideal and normative citizens are but also how they feel”(Ana,2015,p.218). Similarly, the Asian American literature also addresses the intersectionality of gender, immigration and race by representing as how all these factors outline the experiences of Asian immigrants in America.

While, De Jesus in 2008 points out that “the Asian American experience has been forged within the realities of the racialized and gendered hierarchy of white America. All manifestations and representations of Asian American sexuality and gender reflect American legal, moral and cultural anxiety concerning race-mixing” (p.316). On the other hand, the minority discourse spotlights the unique challenges faced by Asian Americans which usually address the issues of racism, marginalization and the endeavors for representation. It is important to note that the involvement of US military “in wars on Asian soil has greatly contributed to the creation of the stereotype of Asian women as “spoils of war”—war brides, prostitutes, bar girls, and geishas who sacrifice everything for the love of the white man “( De Jesús,2008,p.317). It is essential to mention that the Japanese women married the servicemen of the Allied forces during the era of WWII. They are referred as war brides. This phenomenon of war brides was particularly highlighted in era of post WWII. When the Allied forces particularly American troops occupied the Japan, the interactions of the Japanese women and American troops became common and most of the relationships led to the marriages which gave rise to societal resistance and legal obstacles as well.

In the era of post WWII, the Japanese American romance and marriages were depicted in the literary works along with several challenges of identity, love and cultural integration in an era marked by societal upheaval and racial prejudices as well. In this context, the novel *No-No Boy* by John Okada published in 1957 reveals the struggle of the protagonist Ichiro Yamada with his identity as well as the expectations of the society placed upon him which especially reflects wide ranging complexities in his interracial relationship as well. While, Ling (1995) has pointed out the marginalization and racial discriminations faced by the Japanese Americans in the era of 1940s as depicted in the novel *No-No Boy* by John Okada. In this context, the protagonist Ichiro faces challenges in relation to his Japanese American identity while struggling to assimilate into the host American society. He feels internal conflicts as a Japanese American in an effort to reconcile with his cultural heritage with the societal expectations in the host society.

Similarly, the novel *Seventeen Syllables and Other Stories* by Hisaye Yamamoto published in 1988 reveals struggle of the Japanese American families to refashion their lives in the post-internment by spotlighting the generational gap and the resistance of the women against the heavy odds of the life. Similarly, the novel *When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka published in 2002 highlights the disruption of the family life as a result of the forced relocation as well as internment of Japanese Americans. The reunion of the couple after the years of separation marks significant changes in terms of persistent trauma in their individual as well as communal lives. The novel also investigates the intricacies of interracial relationship in the aftermath of WWII. The interracial marriages and relationships were marked with prejudice and considerable resistance. As a matter of fact, the Asian American novels usually captures the post-World War II multilayered lives of the Japanese Americans in the form of their struggle to rebuild their relationships and lives amidst the environment of expanding cultural dynamics and racial prejudices as well. These cultural productions also provide insight into love, perseverance and resilience as expounded by Japanese American marriages and romance in the post WWII tumultuous era as well.

While investigating the researches already conducted on the novel *How to be an American Housewife* by Margaret Dilloway published in 2010, it emerges that Todd (2017) in a research article has probed it in terms of reconstruction of identity on the part of immigrant women. The researcher also highlights that the Asian immigrant women who strive to show their attachment with the cultural norms of their land of origin are recognized as alien on the American soil. However, these immigrant women are eager to be accepted as the American women. The researcher points out that at first, the mother Shoko and later on her daughter Sue follow the same way for their recognition in the host American society.

On the other hand, the study of Kilwouw, Moelier, & Maca, (2021) conducted on the novel *How to be an American Housewife* by Margaret Dilloway in highlights the aspects of race and process of assimilation manifested in the story in the light of theory of assimilation in the context of its racial and segmented models. The researchers are of the view that Shoko is forced to adopt the cultural norms and traditions of the host American society as a result of her complex situation. While, she also strives to

create the balance between the host American culture and her land of origin Japan in order to give honour to the both cultures. In the light of the theory by Milton Gordon, it appears that the minority group which is essentially characterized by immigrants has to accept the American culture which is different from their own cultural heritage. In this case, the first generation experiences the process of assimilation while, the second generation is considerably inclined towards the culture of host land as it emerges in the character of Shoko's daughter Sue. While, Shoko has to face rejection of Americans in many aspects and she is compelled to accept the certain things which were scandalous in the culture of her land of origin, Japan.

While, the research work of Pariyar (2017) highlights the certain post-colonial issues in the novel *How to be an American Housewife* by Margaret Dilloway in connection with the immigrant woman Shoko and her daughter Sue. The researcher highlights that on account of adverse economic condition and political instability, the characters immigrated to America in order to find peaceful life in America but they find challenges in terms of their adjustment in the host culture. However, she suffers from the cultural alienation in a situation when she has lost her culture, language and identity as well. The researcher also points out that the Asian immigrants have the unsatisfactory lives due to the certain challenges in the host American society. In this way, they lack the great ambitions in their lives.

Pertinently, while reviewing the related literature and the few researches conducted on the novel *How to be an American Housewife* by Margaret Dilloway, it emerges that most of the researches highlight the aspect of cultural interaction, identity issues and the pursuit of the financial stability. However, this research article is focused on the investigation of the character of Japanese American woman, Shoko and an American GI Charlie in terms of their romantic relationship and marriage in the era of post WWII when Japan was occupied by the Allied forces mainly by the American troops.

### Research Questions

This research article seeks to find out the answers of the following research questions:-

- (1) What are the lexical patterns in the portrayal of the characters of Japanese immigrant woman Shoko and American GI Charlie which manifest the Asian American romance in *How to become an American Housewife* by Margaret Dilloway?
- (2) How do the textual meanings of the lexical patterns suggest in the context of Asian American romantic relationship?

### Research Methodology

The application of corpus linguistics through extensive collection of text recognized as corpora provides significant insight into the investigation of Asian American literary works. In this regard, the computational approach provides the intricate understanding of the texts by exposing the trends and patterns that might not be complicated while investigation through conventional ways of literary analysis as well. While, Corpus linguistics empowers the quantitative analysis of language used in the literary texts by furnishing the objective data on phases such as Key word in context, N Gram, frequency as well as the lexical diversity. These aspects of the texts are significant in probing the narrative structures, characterizations and recurring themes in the wider spectrum of the literary texts. In this way, the investigation of the frequency of certain words and phrases in connection with the family, identity or cultural encounters can enable the researchers to systematically track how these aspects are highlighted in a literary work. The use of corpus linguistics helps to investigate the stylistic aspects in the works under investigation. By probing the linguistics aspects such as dialogue pattern, use of metaphors, and the sentence, the researcher strives to find out the impact of the literary work.

While, Tognini-Bonelli (1996) is of the view that the function of a text is substantiated "in a verbal context, but also extends to a specific context of situation and a specific context of culture; a text is interpreted above all functionally (p.3). It is important to mention that corpus has not any exclusive function as it has the formal parameters for the corpus analysis apart from its crucial role in the linguistic analysis of the sample gathered for this purpose. The researcher has aimed to utilize the three linguistics descriptive aspects to investigate the stylistic characteristics and their particular functions in the novel *How to be an American Housewife* by Margaret Dilloway as Key Word in Context, N Gram and Clusters by utilizing the Antconc Software with a particular focus on the characters of Shoko and Charlie.

### Key Word in Context

In order to find the answers of the research questions, the notion of keyword is quite essential while engaging with corpus linguistics as an initial procedure for the analytical process of this research. While, Baker (2023) opines that a keyword list is beneficial "in suggesting lexical items that could warrant further examination from a discourse analysis perspective. A keyword list therefore gives a measure of saliency, whereas a simple word list only provides frequency" (p.165). While, Baker (2023) further suggests that "a positive keyword is a word that occurs significantly more often in one corpus, compared to the other, while a negative one occurs significantly less often in one corpus, compared to the other" (P.167). In a text, some words have usually high frequency while, some texts have the low frequency. The present research takes into account the words with unusually high frequency in order to find authentic answers of the research questions. It is essential to mention that for the purpose of finding the accuracy in keywords in a corpus, "the default settings on a tool will produce something of interest, and increasingly, corpus analysis tools try to use some sort of hybrid or compromise measure, resulting in lists of keywords that are both reasonably frequent" (p.168) and hint a clear difference in comparison with other texts. However, Stubbs (2010) points out the three notions in connection with the keywords, the first notion is stemmed from cultural studies, the second is derived from lexico-grammar work and ultimately the third notion is sourced from the comparative quantitative analysis as well. This research article is focused on the third perception of Keywords which means that investigation of the keywords which are significant statistically in a text by utilizing the tools of AntConc devised by Laurence Anthony.

**N-Grams**

In connection with the analysis of the text by employing the corpus linguistics, N-grams are also important for the investigation of the text in order to its thematic analysis. While n-grams are the contiguous sequences of items which can be syllables, words or characters as per requirements of the analysis being utilized by the researcher. “In this case, the letter n indicates how many elements have to be taken into account, i.e., the length of a sequence or of an n-gram” (Sidorov 14).In this way, “there are bigrams (2-grams), trigrams (3-grams), 4-grams, 5-grams, and so on. Thus, if we talk about unigrams, i.e., n-grams constructed of a single element, it is the same as talking about words.” (Sidorov 14).It is important to note that n-grams appear in a text much less than the words. “It is logical since we actually observe the appearance of sequences of two or more words together, which is a much less likely event than a single word (Sidorov 15).By investigating the context in which N-grams emerges in the text, a researcher can understand the certain themes that are developed and discussed in the text as well. Then the frequency of the N-Grams is also helpful to compare the different corpora in an effort to identify the dominant themes from the text.

**Clusters**

In connection with corpus linguistics, clusters are referred as lexical bundles or the sequences of the words that repeatedly co-occur with a particular order within a corpus. However, these particular sequences are typically recognized by using computational methods. The clusters have their own interest as they can expose collocations, the pattern of language use as well as the common phrase which are not distinguishable through the manual analysis of the corpus. While, Baker (2023) points out that “a cluster is a fixed sequence of two or more tokens” (P.91-92). It is important to note that Clusters are essential in a sense as they support the linguists to comprehend as how the words are integrated in the language use naturally and offers insights into semantics, syntax and pragmatics as well. While, clusters in the context of the linguistics provide understanding in the usage and structure of the language. The investigation of the repeated word sequence helps the researchers to unearth the certain patterns used in a corpus. Similarly, the investigation of clusters enables the researchers to bridge the gap between practical applications and raw language and reveals the aspect as how language operates in various genre and contexts.

**Corpora, Data and Software**

While, Laurence Anthony developed a freeware corpus analysis toolkit called AntConc in 2002.It was specifically designed for conducting research and textual analysis in the field of corpus linguistics. In the present era, AntConc is utilized by the educators, language researchers and linguists to probe the collection of textual material which is called corpora in an effort to obtain the linguistic data, frequencies and meaningful patterns as well. The range of powerful tools and features of AntCone which are particularly utilized in the corpus linguistic analysis of this research include the Key word in context tool, clusters and n-gram tools as well. It is a powerful and versatile software for corpus linguistics which facilitates the researcher to conduct analyses on a vast scale including the basic frequency counts to complex clusters and n-gram studies as well. In this research study, the Antconc software with the version of 4.3.0 has been utilized for the analysis of the text. As Laurence (2024)points out that “AntConc is a freeware, multiplatform tool for carrying out corpus linguistics research, introducing corpus methods, and doing data-driven language learning”(p.1). In this connection, the soft copy of the text of the novel How to be an American Wife by Margaret Dilloway has been sectioned into two texts. The part of the text which highlights the character of Charlie is utilized as the Target Corpus, while the segment of the text which spotlights the character of Shoko is harnessed as the Reference Corpus in the AntConc software.

**Table 1:** Keyword in Context in How to be an American Housewife by Margaret Dilloway

Left Context	Hit	Right Context
It felt lonelier than when driving home,” she had said.	Charlie	had been in the
hadn’t.” Sue sounded disappointed.	Charlie	had been mad. “You’
the carpeting halfway pulled back.	Charlie	had been thrilled. “People
than my father knew English.	Charlie	had gotten a discount
pilots spied on the Russians.	Charlie	had gotten books on
I wanted to ask what	Charlie	had said there was
couldn’t tell her that	Charlie	had said to him,
an easy, short ascent that	Charlie	had taken me yesterday
mountain into our yard, and	Charlie	had taken us to
bunch of young servicemen in	love	had to dig a
cigarette. “Tetsuo is still in	love	with Japan. It wasn’t
we first got married. But	love	with you, you know.”
between my family and my	love.	can grow. DURING ONE
asked questions.“Why these feminazis	love	Deep down, I knew
anyone, you know. Rich businessman	love	hate everybody so much?
was how he showed his	love.	her.” And then Dr.
me. “Someone you don’t	love,	In Vietnam, he rode
work. I felt rich. “I	love	just to leave.” Before
Japan, he had fallen in	love	to show off my
in the other, as her	husband	with the culture as
Those stories scare her,” my	husband,	and clean kids applauded
		Charlie, had said. “The

the letter. Not that my	husband,	Charlie, was nosy, but
well-turned-out Housewife your	husband	could ever ask for.
I would have chosen a	husband	for Sue. Sue needed
a shooing motion at my	husband.	Go away," I said,
thin airmail stationery and my	husband'	s fountain pen out
hand out and shaking my	husband'	s. When you marry
tends to complain if the	husband	spends many hours at
statues, you will cause your	husband	to abandon you. —from
pulled me down for a	kiss. "	There. Do you feel
s another." I heard him	kiss	her. "Good night." The
her that you should only	kiss	if you were going
he had never tried to	kiss	me, like the others
bent down as though to	kiss	me. I panicked. A
kiss me. I panicked. A	kiss	meant I was telling
What it?" No ceremony, no	kiss,	nothing? Was this American?
happen, but I did. The	kiss	went on for what

In order to find out the key aspects in connection with the Asian American romantic elements while focusing on the characters of Shoko and Charlie, four keywords i-e Charlie, love, husband and kiss were probed in text by utilizing the AntConc software. These keyword in context highlighted the aspect of great urge on the part of Shoko to find close affinity with Charlie in order to live a happy life in America in the post WWII. It is important to mention that the option of 10 hit for each KWIC was selected from the AntConc software. While, focusing on the right and left context of name Charlie, it emerge that Shoko in her story give prime importance to him and fully prepare herself to become his wife. Her parents also recommends her wish to marry an American man, however, his brother is strictly against this marriage. He thinks that Shoko has betrayed her motherland by linking herself to an American man. Similary, the Keywords of love, husband and kiss also carry the romantic feelings. While focusing on "Charlie" the first KWIC, it appears that Shoko in her narrative story give prime importance to him. This is due to the fact that she had the strong urge to become the wife of an American man and her parents were also in favour of it as well. Then, the emergence of the words "love", "husband" and "kiss" as the KWIC also convey the romantic attachment of Shoko and Charlie. While, Scott (2010) points out the use of key in a metaphorical sense. A key provides access to a place which is otherwise private and confined. "In this sense a word or phrase is a key which enables one to see something, it is an enabling device" (p.44). The lexical pattern of these KWIC emerge across the various contexts and reflect the particular ideas and certain ways of expression of the relationship of Shoko and Charlie.

**Table 2:** Clusters in *How to be an American Housewife* by Margaret Dilloway

Cluster	Frequency	Example of a Sentence
I had	148	I had found Charlie myself, almost American-style, and maybe I would have done things differently if I could go back.
I was	119	I was joking, but Charlie looked horrified.
He said	58	"I love to show off my beautiful wife," he said, giving me hugs.
an American	35	Father wants me to marry an American, and I agree.
His eyes	24	Charlie pursed his lips, then closed his eyes.
I looked	24	I looked at my husband for understanding.
I smiled	19	I smiled at Charlie, and he blushed beet red.
American Housewife	19	The spaghetti recipe was in the new American cookbook that Charlie gave me, <i>How to Be an American Housewife</i> .
A Japanese	19	He was short for an American, but still tall for a Japanese.
I want	13	I want to get out of Japan, not only Ueki.

The analysis of the selected clusters of this table reveals that Shoko had strong desire to marry Charlie. Her meeting with Charlie in Japan was not an accidental one as she had desperately tried and planned for it. After her engagement with him, she prepared herself to meet the challenges of becoming an American housewife. The frequency of the first cluster "I had" is 148 while, for the second "I was" is 119 which reveal her strong motives to realize her dream of getting involved and having a romantic relationship with the American GI Charlie.

Then the frequency of the other cluster such as "he said" is 58 which means that Charlie was also inspired by the youth and vivacity of Shoko and he was also romantically involved with her as well. Then, the frequency of "I looked" as well as "I smiled" also point out their mutual understanding and emotional attachment as well. While, Shoko tried to come up to the expectations of her husband Charlie by adopting all those manners required as a wife of an American man.

**N-Gram Table 3:** N-Gram in How to be an American Housewife by Margaret Dilloway

Sr.No	Type	Rank	Freq	Range	Norm Freq	Norm Range
1	Be an American Housewife	1	18	1	424.749	1
2	How to Be an	1	18	1	424.749	1
3	to Be an American	1	18	1	424.749	1
4	I didn t know	4	14	1	330.36	1
5	I shook my head	5	12	1	283.166	1
6	I don t know	6	11	1	259.569	1
7	I would have to	7	7	1	165.18	1
8	A Map to Husbands	8	5	1	117.986	1
9	Husbands How to Be	8	5	1	117.986	1
10	I closed my eyes	8	5	1	117.986	1

The close observations of the quadgram presented in the table reveals that the main focus of Shoko in the context of her relationship was to become the wife of an American man in order to seek a comfortable life outside of her war devastated land of Japan. The high frequency of “Be an American Housewife” is a glaring example in this connection. She is constantly in search of the ways to come up to the expectations of an American man and find her adjustment in the host American society. The quadgram “How to Be an” as well as to Be an American are the vivid examples in this sense as well. Then the first person “I” in all the four quadgrams reveals the intentions of the Shoko for the achievement of her task of getting attached with an American GI as well as her efforts for a happy life in future. Then, the quadgrams of “A Map to Husbands” and “Husband how to be” hint towards her ultimate goal of finding a suitable husband across the national boundaries. The last quadgram “I closed my eyes” hint towards the emotional attachment and a romantic relations with a dear one which is no other than Charlie in this sense for Shoko.

#### The Use of File View Tool

The file view tool of the AntConc software has also been utilized. For this purpose, the selected words such as America, Love, husband, happy and kiss were sought out from the target corpus. These context these words reveal an urge on the part of Shoko to search for an American man as her future husband in order to lead a prosperous life in America and to get rid of the cozy domestic life in a village of Japan. The story of the novel reveals that Shoko is successful in her endeavors and gets married with Charlie an American GI. However, she keeps alive her attachment with her Japanese ancestral roots even on the American soil as well as she points out , “when Charlie first brought me from Japan to Norfolk, I decorated our home to the best of my ability, with my Japanese furniture”(Dilloway,2010,p. 19). It is interesting to note that Shoko had a great attraction for the American culture while, Charlie was also inspired by the Japanese culture. However, economic benefits and the attraction of the American culture were also the major factors in the background of the attraction of Shoko towards Charlie. On the other hand, Shoko also expresses the romantic feelings of Charlie in the narrative in this way that “he kissed me with a laugh, spinning me around so the collar on his dark sailor’s uniform flew out” (Dilloway, 2010, p. 30). It is important to mention that there are no conflicts and confrontations in their relationship despite of the certain cultural barriers and the disapproval of the marriage of Shoko and Charlie by Taro, the real brother of Shoko. While, Shoko also performs her role as a devoted Eastern wife in the household as she reveals, “I would have done almost anything for Charlie to keep him happy”(Dilloway,2010,p. 38).However, behind the romantic advancement of Shoko,the motives of economic benefits and an urge for a life full of freedom are also prominent. As Shoko points out, “Charlie was a better husband than some other American men. He had a steady Navy job that was enough money, especially when we lived in Japan” (Dilloway, 2010, p. 38).While, Charlie was also fascinated by the Japanese culture as Shoko points out “like a lot of the Navy people coming into Japan, he had fallen in love with the culture as well as with a woman” (Dilloway,2010,p.75). This attraction towards the Japanese culture paved the way for the development of the romantic feelings on the both sides as well.

#### Discussion

On the basis of the setting as mentioned in the previous section, key word in context, N-gram, clusters and the analysis of the certain textual evidences found through file view in the novel How to be an American Housewife by Margaret Dilloway with a particular focus on the Characters of Charlie, an American GI and Shoko a Japanese American woman were investigated respectively. The list of 50 Key Word in Context,N-Gram and Clusters are presented in table 1-3. However, it is important to mention that only those token of words, Key words and N-gram are chosen for the investigation which are significant in connection with the theme of Asian American romance. The table 1 represents the lists of KWIC while the clusters are listed in the table 2.Similarly, N-gram are presented in table 3 as well. Similarly, the file view tool has also been utilized to unearth the relevant text for analysis. While, Rawi (2017) is of the view that a text or corpora is not mere a language. It carries the cultural, social and cognitive aspects influencing the language as well. These aspects influence the context of the text as well. In this way, the meanings of words in a text are dissimilar to their meanings isolation. While, focusing on these aspects, the overall analysis reveals that the romantic elements in the characters of Shoko and Charlie depict the amalgamation of Asian and American cultural traditions and the complex experiences of Asian immigrants in the American society. Both the characters of Shoko and Charlie navigate across the national boundaries and portray the certain challenges. Shoko as a protagonist falls in love with Charlie who has American cultural background which spotlight the harmonies and tensions that emerge in their relationships. It emerges that Shoko delves into the complexities of maintaining her cultural ties with her ancestral land Japan while struggling to adjust in the host American society as the wife of an American man. On the other hand, she also goes

through the process of formation of her dual identity and self-discovery. Her journey from Japan to America enables her to understand her place in the Asian American society in the context of her relationship with her husband Charlie. Her married life with Charlie in America also paves the way for her to reconcile with her past life and envision her future life in the host American society. Her life depicts the complexities of the interracial relationships as well as a pressure to assimilate into the host American society as per expectations of her husband Charlie. It is important to note that she pursues her dream of marrying an American against the wishes of her brother Taro. In this way, Shoko confronts the prejudices and stereotypes of her society and accepts the challenges of adaptability in order to find the acceptance in the diverse host American society. Cultural heritage, identity and love intersect in her story of quest to romantic relationship and connection. It is important to note that the quest of Shoko to marry Charlie as portrayed by Dilloway is motivated by reciprocity of personal, social and cultural factors. These factors are rooted in the personal autonomy and freedom and the urge for economic stability and social mobility as well. It is evident that she wants to improve her socioeconomic status. She hopes for a better financial prospects which is not available to her in a war devastated country of Japan. In this way, she strives to improve her living standard despite the several cultural and emotional challenges while seeking adjustment in the host society. On the other hand, she is also fascinated by the Western cultural ideals as well. The inspiration of the freedom and glamour the American society as compared to the considerable repressive norms and traditions of Japanese culture allures her to marry an American man.

An essential observation is that the quest of Shoko to marry Charlie is also marked by her pursuit of love and emotional attachment which she was unable to find in her early affairs with the men of her own Japanese society. Her love and attraction towards Charlie inspires her to bridge the gap of societal expectations and cultural differences in order to marry a man who is respectful towards her personality and culture as well. In this way, Shoko is ready to build a meaningful connection by defying the certain limitations imposed by her cultural background. Another important aspect in connection with the quest of Shoko to marry an American is to forge her new identity by defying the certain limitations imposed by the older generation. She wants to break free from the limitations of her cultural heritage in order to assert her individual autonomy and to seek the validation for her individual choice as well.

While, the emotional attachment of Charlie with Shoko is motivated by cultural fascinations, real love and exoticism as well. The Western society has historically recognized East as an exotic and mysterious land which seems an urge for Charlie to experience a different culture through an intimate relationship with a romanticized view of Japanese society by considering it a unique experience. It is important to note that interracial relationship were discredited or legally prohibited in the American society during the era before and after WWII. The aspect of involving in a romantic relationship with Shoko for Charlie is an act of defying the xenophobic and racist standard of American society. Then, it is also an act of embracing the diverse and inclusive world view on the part of Charlie by marrying a Japanese woman in the aftermaths of WWII. It is important to point out that the American soldiers stationed in Japan sought solace through their relationship with the Japanese women. In this way, Charlie found peace and gentleness in the nurturing qualities of Shoko which is the characteristics of Japanese women as well. It appears a healing process for a soldier like Charlie in the aftermath of WWII.

Intriguingly, the analysis of data reveals that Dilloway has portrayed the romantic relationship and bond of Shoko and Charlie by acknowledging the cultural differences between the two. They find mutual respect, common ground and an emotional attachment which transcends the cultural barriers as well. Their mutual understanding and affection highlight the aspect of universal nature of love as well. Then the socio-political and historical contexts are also important for the developments of the romantic relationship as Charlie was stationed in Japan when he met Shoko. While, Shoko had to navigate all the challenges as the life partner of an American along with the societal reaction in the form of the disapproval of his brother Taro as well. The relationship of Shoko and Charlie is important for both of them to grow and learn through their mutual cooperation. While, Charlie is able to gain insight about the culture and traditions of the Japanese society while, Shoko is able to learn about the American style of living as well. In this way, there is a cultural exchange between them which enable them to foster a dynamic relationship between the two.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

While concluding, it emerges that the corpus linguistics based investigation through the AntConc software makes it possible to probe the literary texts and provides the reliable results but the researchers' understanding of the text in the light of its background plays an essential role in evaluating and interpreting the corpus-informed data. In this sense, the quest of Shoko to marry with Charlie is motivated by the confluence of the multiple factors such as economic stability, social mobility, love, pursuit of personal freedom and autonomy in the American society. While, Dilloway also portrays the challenges faced by Shoko while seeking her adjustment in the host American society as the wife of an American GI. It also provides a considerable insight into the complications of the immigrant experience and intercultural relationships. While, Charlie is motivated by the Japanese cultural fascination as well as the beauty of Shoko to develop the romantic relationship with her. Their ultimate union highlights the dynamics of cross-cultural relationships and marriages in the aftermaths of WWII.

It is recommended that the further research in this domain can be conducted by focusing on the themes of resilience, identity and assimilation by comparing the Japanese American corpora with the corpora of other cultures and ethnicities as well. Similarly, the thematic analysis can be conducted by focusing on the aspects of identity and cultural encounters depicted in the Asian American literature by utilizing the Collocation, Plot and other relevant tools of the AntConc software.

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