

THE ABSURDITY OF TOKUSUKE UTSUGI'S ROLE IN HIS FAMILY AS A POTRAIT OF JAPANESE FAMILY'S CULTURAL CHANGES IN JUNICHIRO TANIZAKI'S *DIARY OF A MAD OLD MAN*

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Abstract : Tokusuke as the main characters in *Diary of mad old man* has many conflicts with other members of his family. Thus by understanding the conflicts around him, the writer can get full understanding about the motivation that causes the conflicts in his family. The motivations behind those conflicts are mostly caused by his blind love to Satsuko. His obsession and his strong sexual desire make him against the whole family. Thus his roles in his family show the cultural changes in Japanese families.

Key Words: motivation, conflict, cultural changes

I. INTRODUCTION

Japan is a modern country which is mostly influenced by the western life. These changes have also influenced the family life of Japanese people. The way they rule their families are also different with the traditional families. In *Diary of a Mad old man*, Tanizaki describes the portrait of a modern family in Japan which is greatly influenced by western life. The relationship between husband and wife is no longer depicting the traditional family who respecting the old people. Thus, the cultural changes are also found in the hedonistic life of Satsuko.

Furthermore, old age ideally represents a time of relaxation of social obligations, assisting with the family farm or business without carrying the main responsibility, socializing, and receiving respectful care from family and esteem from the community. Although the elderly might not have been accorded generalized respect based on age, many older Japanese continued to live full lives that included gainful employment and close relationships with adult children.

Jun'ichirō Tanizaki (24 July 1886–30 July 1965) was a Japanese author, one of the major writers of modern Japanese literature. Some of his works present a rather shocking world of sexuality and destructive erotic obsessions; others, less sensational, subtly portray the dynamics of family life

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in the context of the rapid changes in 20th-century Japanese society. Frequently his stories are narrated in the context of a search for cultural identity in which "the West" and "Japanese tradition" (both of them constructions) are juxtaposed. The results are complex, ironic, and provocative. (www.wikipedia.com)

Diary of a Mad Old man was written using first person narrative style. The main character is Tokusuke Utsugi. "Seventy-seven-year-old Tokusuke Utsugi, a retired businessman, is the protagonist and diarist of this book. Various aches and pains plague him, but his spirits are buoyed by a growing erotic obsession with his daughter-in-law, Satsuko, a former nightclub dancer married to his workaholic son. She carelessly flirts with Tokusuke Utsugi off and on. This short Diary of a mad old man alternates between descriptions of our hero's haggling with the medical establishment and various medicines, fights with his wife and family, and encounters with Satsu. *Diary of a Mad Old Man* was published in 1965, late in the great Japanese Diary of a mad old manlist's career, but its theme of the relationship between sexual desire and the will to live is familiar in much of his other work."

The writer believes that the conflicts in this novel are very important parts to analyzed. This paper will analyze the conflicts between Tokusuke Utsugi as the main character with other family members in his family. Thus by understanding the family conflicts we can know the absurdity of his role in a family. It can also tell us the deep motivation that causes the family conflicts.

I. RELATED LITERATURE

1. Conflict theory

1.1. Definition of Conflict

Conflict is the contest between two or more characters which according to Holman is a very important aspect of a story, as it holds the existence of motivation of the characters and gradually puts them in opposing position with different goal to be achieved (1972:107). The opposing forces are usually a person, or if an animal or an inanimate is treated, as though it was a person. Furthermore, the opposing force might not only be found in the form of action, but also in the form of ideas, desire or wills.

Consequently conflict in the point of view of normal-natural-factual, which means not in the story, recommends to a negative connotation or something that unpleasant. Therefore some people choose to run and avoid conflict, wishing for a peaceful life. But in neither in a fictional story or real life there is no peaceful living, for conflict is one of the garnishes of life.

1.1. Types of Conflict

Plot of a story can become complete and interesting one when there are conflicts, some sensational dramatic problems. Holman (1980) assumes that there are four basic conflicts that provide the springboard for storytelling

1. Internal conflict:

- Man-against-himself

The conflict that happens when the main character have conflict with some elements in his own nature, eventually turns to.

2. External conflict:

- Man-against-nature: The conflict that represents man versus the force of nature, such as the difficulties and danger,
- Man-against-man: The conflict that involves a character in opposition to another character, which provide an obstacle that stands in the way of achieving some goals,
- Man-against-society: The conflict that arises when a character goes against the rules of society.

III. CONFLICTS IN *DIARY OF A MAD OLD MAD*

This study will discuss about the types of conflicts (Holman: 1980) on Tokusuke relationship with other members of his family. There are four conflicts that will be elaborated (Internal and External conflicts). These types of conflicts which are suggested by Holman (1980) are helpful in understanding and analyzing Tokusuke's role in his family.

Since this *Diary of a mad old man* is narrated using the first person style, the conflicts found are seen from Tokusuke Utsugi point of view. Thus by understanding the conflicts around him, the writer can get full understanding about the motivation that causes the conflicts in his family. It can also reveal Tokusuke's role in his family as the portrait of modern Japanese family.

1. Internal Conflict

The definition of conflict is the opposing force might not only be found in the form of action, but also in the form of ideas, desire or wills.(Holman, 1980) In Tokusuke's internal conflict we will see the conflicts in the the form of ideas, desire or wills.

1.1 Man against himself

Tokusuke Utsugi -against-himself

The conflict inside Tokusuke Utsugi is implicitly described when he feels that his mother would get angry to him if she knew his condition. He knows that by having an affair with Satsuko, he has already sacrificed all of his families; his son, daughters, and wife. He knows that his obsession to his daughter in law, Satsuko,

is only a shameful affair. And he also realizes what kind of a woman Satsuko is. But still Tokusuke Utsugi can not stop his strong obsession to Satsuko.

Suppose Mother knew that her son Tokusuke, born in 1883, is alive today and is shamefully attracted to a woman like Satsuko – to her granddaughter at that, the wife of her own grandson- and finds pleasure in being tantalized by her, even sacrificing his wife and children to try to win her love! Could she possibly have imagined that now, thirty-two years after her death, her son would have become such a lunatic, and that such a woman would have joined our family? No, I myself had never dreamed it would turn out this way.... (Tanizaki, 1965: 85)

That paragraph shows that somehow inside his heart he knows that what he has done is wrong. He realizes that his obsession will only destroy himself and his family. However his desire is stronger than his feeling to his family. Therefore, he still continues his affair with his daughter-in-law, Satsuko.

1. External Conflict

2.1. Man against Nature

Tokusuke against his diseases

The main character in *Diary of a mad old man* is Tokusuke Utsugi, the seventy-seven-year- old patriarch of a well-to-do Tokyo family. He suffered and continually pained by many kinds of diseases such as neuralgia, backaches, and circulation problems.

... at sixty-two or three I began to have warning symptoms of high blood pressure, and at sixty six or seven I was in bed for a month after a light cerebral hemorrhage; yet it was only after celebrating my seventy-fifth birthday that I became acquainted with severe physical pain. At first it began in my left hand and traveled to my elbow, then from elbow to shoulder, then from my feet to my legs. I have had trouble with both legs, every day I find it a little harder to walk. No doubt most people wonder what I have left to live for, the way I am..... (Tanizaki, 1965: 25)

The excerpt above explains about Tokusuke Utsugi's condition. Thus the writer assumes that Tokusuke Utsugi is a sick old man that has to struggle for life from his so many kinds of sickness. He is assisted by a nurse to help him doing everything including assisting him in bathing.

Although he is struggling with all of his sickness, Tokusuke Utsugi has a strong feeling of sexual desire. It means that his strong desire of sexual has against the nature of his condition being a weak sick old man. He knows that by fulfilling his desire, his pain will be worse. Whenever he experiences the erotic sensation, his pain will get worse and endanger his own life.

I had begun to feel an excruciating pain in my left hand. And yet I also felt an acute sense of pleasure. As I looked into Satsuko's malicious face the pain – and the pleasure – became more and more intense. (Tanizaki, 1965: 34)

Thus the writer believes that there is a conflict between his strong sexual desire and his health condition. He cannot control his desire and obsession of his love to Satsuko (his daughter in law). Though he knows its consequences, he keeps obsessing to feel the erotic sensations with Satsuko. It is ironic that whenever he experiences the erotic sensation, his pain will get worse and endanger his own life.

I dare say it was when I crammed her toes into my mouth that my blood pressure reached its height. Certainly my face burned and the blood rushed to my head, as if I might die of apoplexy that very instant. Dying! Long as I had prepared for death, the thought of dying frightened me. I told myself that I had to calm down, that I mustn't let myself be excited, and yet I went on blindly suckling at her feet. I could not stop. No, the more I tried to stop, the more insanely I suckled- and all the while thought I was dying. (Tanizaki 1965: 68)

Tokusuke's strong desire against his will to live

There is also another conflict between his strong sexual desire against his will to live. As said before, Tokusuke is an old man who suffers a lot of diseases. To cure his diseases, Tokusuke Utsugi has already endured so many kinds of medical treatments. Those medication can only reduce the pain but they don't cure his pains. However, Tokusuke never gives up. He tries any kind of medication in order to continue his life.

One day his nurse tells him that there is a new medication treatment that possibly can cure his diseases. But this technique has never been done to elderly like him and maybe it has some risks with his life. But Tokusuke wants to do this treatment. He doesn't care with the risks. Actually his motivation is encouraged by his feeling to Satsuko not because of his wife or his children. "When I think of Satsuko I feel like gambling on the slightest chance to live again. Anything else is meaningless." (Tanizaki, 1965: 121)

Thus, it shows that Tokusuke Utsugi still has the will to live. However, his will to live is contradicted with his sexual desires that can easily ruin his life.

2.2 Man-against-man

Tokusuke Utsugi and his wife

In *Diary of a mad old man*, the relation between husband and wife is described by many conflicts. Since he was young, Tokusuke likes to argue with his wife though his wife is true. Whatever his wife suggests, he will try to find

some excuses to fight her. Sometimes he likes to make statements that makes his wife objects them.

"There, didn't I tell you so? My wife said. "But you wouldn't listen to me. Do you still think it was worth coming? To a second-rate performance like this?"

"Oh, it's not so bad. Just to look at that Agemaki helps me forget the pain."

Her reproaches made me all the more stubborn. However, my arm was getting a bad chill....

To tell the truth, my arm was bothering me so much I had thought of giving up the matinee program, but my wife's nagging made me want to come again out of sheer perversity. (Tanizaki, 1965: 6)

Their conversation shows that Tokusuke likes to make his wife get angry. He feels satisfied if he can make his wife argued, especially if it has something to do with Satsuko. Thus, he sacrificed his own health just to make her wife get angry. Though he suffers from bad chill he still continues in cool weather just to make her wife gets angry.

Tokusuke Utsugi and his daughter, Kugako

Tokusuke never has close relationship with his children. He even doesn't know anything about his son's job. He has ignored his children including his daughter Kugako. When the eldest of her three children wishes to marry, Kugako asks her father for a short-term loan of twenty thousand yen. He refuses her asking. He doesn't want to give a loan to his own daughter. However, not long afterward, Satsuko extracts three million yen from him as the price of a kissing session. He has bought her a cat's eye, a fifteen carats diamond ring.

Tokusuke prefers to spend his money for Satsuko than give it to his daughter. Eventhough his daughter really needs that money. And if we compared the amount of money that Kugako asked with the cat's-eye's price, it would be worthless. His crazy obsession to Satsuko has defeated his family. Thus his obsession has sacrificed her own daughter.

Tokusuke Utsugi and his daughter Itsuko

Itsuko is Utsugi's widowed daughter. She lives in the Nanzenji district with her two grown sons, Kikutaro and Keijiro, and has never gotten along well with her father. She knows that Satsuko has an affair with Haruhisa. And she also knows that his father has bought her the Cat's eye. Tokusuke never likes his daughters including Itsuko. He thinks that Itsuko and Kugako have always been good at deceiving people and never like Satsuko.

"You liar! I'm sure you made her mad so that she'd leave! You and Kugako have always been good at deceiving people and stirring up trouble. It's too bad I forgot that."

"Oh, you're awful! How can you say such a thing?" (Tanizaki, 1965: 158).

His quarrel with Itsuko ends up in his stroke. He has to stay in bed for the whole days and is not allowed to write in his diary again. Even after his stroke, Tokusuke will be in a bad temper every time he sees her. So she tries to stay out of his sight, though she wants to help her mother to look after her father. Thus it also happens with Kugako.

Tokusuke Utsugi against his daughter in law

Satsuko Utsugi is a beautiful former chorus girl. She has been married to Tokusuke Utsugi's son for ten years, and they occupy the second floor of Tokusuke Utsugi's Tokyo house. Although she is the mother of a six-year-old son, Satsuko devotes her days to shopping, classical flower arranging, films, boxing matches, and an adulterous affair with Tokusuke Utsugi's nephew, Haruhisa.

Satsuko knows that her father in law has been obsessed to have sexual affair with her. Thus she uses that chance as a tool to get what she wants. She offers her father-in-law kisses for gifts such as a car, a designer scarf, a purse, and a cat's-eye ring.

Satsuko is always in disagreement with her mother in law. It means that she has the same idea with Tokusuke who always like to argue with his own wife. That's why Tokusuke is getting more obsessed to have Satsuko. He thinks that Satsuko is a bright girl who can understand him well. Therefore, Tokusuke not only likes her from her beauty but also her "Oden".

Does my love for Satsuko come from my impression that there is something of Oden in her? She is a bit spiteful. A bit sarcastic. And she is a bit of a liar. She doesn't get along very well with her mother-in-law or sister-in-law. She's cold toward her child. (Tanizaki, 1965: 28)

She is also regarded by her sisters-in-law as spiteful, sarcastic, lying, cold, and manipulative and is disregarded by her husband.

Tokusuke realizes that Satsuko has affairs with Haruhisa. He keeps that secret by not telling that to her husband, Jokichi, and his wife. Thus he uses that to attack Satsuko so that she will fulfill his sexual desire.

"You're clever all right. I don't mind feeling sorry for you, but I refuse to be sacrificed for your pleasure!"

"It's not much of a sacrifice – won't you be getting your own pleasure out of it? And won't yours far exceed mine? A man in my condition is really to be pitied!"

"Careful, or you get another slap!" (Tanizaki, 1965: 59)

Satsuko doesn't want to be sacrificed for the old man pleasure. She is a bright girl who knows that actually his father let her has an affair because he can enjoy the pleasure of watching someone else risk a love affair. Tokusuke can't enjoy the sexual pleasure itself.

The conflict between Satsuko and Tokusuke arises again after he asked her to make a Buddha's Footprint Stone carved on the model of her feet. So that when he is dead his ashes will lie under that stone. And that will be his nirvana (Tanizaki, 1965). At first Satsuko doesn't object his obsession but it makes her tired of his crazy idea. She left his father in Kyoto alone without telling him and that makes him get the stroke.

"Forgive me, Father. I'm sorry I left without telling you."

"I suppose you had an engagement."

"That wasn't it. Frankly, I was dead tired from humoring you all day yesterday. I simply can't bear having my feet fumbled with like that from morning till night. One day is enough to wear me out completely, so I ran away! I'm sorry." (Tanizaki, 1965: 162)

She decides to tell about her father-in-law mental condition which was going from bad to worse to her husband. They went to the psychiatrist. After consulting with Dr. Inoue, a psychiatrist, Satsuko has to be very careful with her attitude toward Tokusuke Utsugi. She should not excite him unnecessarily but not ignoring his whises either. Therefore, Jokichi and Satsuko try to follow the doctor's advice

2.2 Man-against-society

Tokusuke Utsugi against his traditional society in respecting his parents

The most important role of the family in Japan was to preserve the household resources and pass them on to the next generation while honoring the family ancestors through household-based religious practices (<http://www.exeas.org/resources/pdf/japanese-family-imamura.pdf>). However in *Diary of a mad old man*, Tokusuke wants to destroy the place where his father and mother spent their last years. His parents lived quietly in the old wing, loving the tranquility of its setting.

He is against the traditional society only because he wants to separate his bedroom as far as possible from his wife's bedroom. He doesn't want to see his wife stays in her own room as much as possible, instead of wandering all around the house (Tanizaki, 1965). By destroying the place where his parents

spent their past years, Tokusuke doesn't show his respect to his parents again. However, his wife has opposed the idea. She wants to preserve the memory of their parents as long as possible.

Tokusuke Utsugi's obsession against Buddhist

Usually, in Japan, old man will prepare his death by choosing the place he will be buried and the tombstone decoration. Tokusuke chooses to be buried in Kyoto because he feels more nostalgic about Tokyo used to be there. He thinks Tokyo is too miserable and chaotic city. (Tanizaki, 1965).

Tokusuke's obsession againsts Buddhist is that he wants his tombstone decorated by Bodhisattva figure redrawn in Satsuko's face and figure hints.

In this way I can have the kind of Bodhisattva I want, without worrying about anyone penetrating my secret. I can sleep eternally under the image of my Satsuko Bodhisattva, under the stone image of Satsuko wearing a crown, with jeweled streamers dangling on her breast, with heavenly robe fluttering in the wind. (Tanizaki, 1965: 147)

Actually his obsession is hidden in his mind. He never says this to others. He is afraid that his feeling to Satsuko will be known by someone else. This crazy idea is off course will be contradicted with the HOLYNESS of Bodhisattva.

Thus it shows that he is not a religious man. His only conceivable divinity is Satsuko. His crazy obsession has defeated his faith as a Buddhist. He has been so blindly in love with Satsuko that after his death he still wants to lie under Satsuko Bodhisattva tombstone.

IV. THE ABSURDITY OF TOKUSUKE UTSUGI' S ROLES IN A FAMILY

By understanding the conflicts that happens around Tokusuke Utsugi with other members of his family, the writer can get what is the motivation that causes those conflicts. The motivations behind those conflicts are mostly caused by his blind love to Satsuko. His obsession and his strong sexual desire make him against the whole family. He doesn't think about his family feelings. He just cares what Satsuko wants or asks eventhough it will cause conflicts with his wife and his children.

Moreover, those conflicts show that Tokusuke Utsugi's role in his family is very absurd. He doesn't care his children because he hates them. He also doesn't respect his wife. The absurdity of Tokusuke's role in his family can be seen below:

1. As a son

As a son, Tokusuke Utsugi doesn't play his role well. He doesn't respect what his parents left for him. He wants to destroy the place that his parents spent their last years there. He doesn't show his respect by destroying that place.

"You remember when I wanted to tear down the old wing and rebuild," I told my wife, "and how you were against it?"

"I certainly was! Who on earth would agree with you, when you show such lack of respect for your parents?" (Tanizaki, 1965: 89)

2. As a Husband

Since he was young, Tokusuke is a man who has enjoyed to play the villain. He is constantly saying spiteful things to his wife. He never says or agrees with whatever his wife says. Even he always tries to make his wife get angry.

In this Diary of a mad old man, the relation between Husband and Wife is not filled by Love. As a husband, Tokusuke never says his love or his respect to his wife. Even, he is deceiving her love by having an affair with his daughter-in-law. He is so blindly in love with Satsuko that he ignores his wife. He keeps arguing and trying to make her wife angry.

He is also a selfish man. He spends his money to buy anything he wants. He never thinks his wife and he gets angry if his wife asks him about the way he spends his money. He spends much of his money to fulfill Satsuko's needs though his own daughter needs the money for more urgent reason.

3. As a father

Tokusuke never has good relationship with his children. To his son, Joikichi, he even doesn't know anything about his son's job. He only knows that Jokichi graduated from Tokyo University and went into Pacific Plastic Industries. But he doesn't have any clear idea about the kind of work he does. Although, soon Jokichi will be his ancestor, he doesn't work in his father company.

Thus, Tokusuke is also a bad father to his son since he lets Satsuko has affairs with some men (Haruhisa and Amari). If he cares with Jokichi, he must tell him about the affairs. However he uses that situation for his own pleasures. He doesn't concern his son feeling when he has obsession to his son's wife. As a good father, he should protect his son's marriage. But he lets his son's marriage destroyed by his obsession.

To his daughter, Kugako, he is so stingy that he doesn't give any loan when she needs the money. She never asks money since she has married. In fact, when she really needs the money, her father doesn't want lend her

money. Instead, Tokusuke spends his money to fulfill his daughter-in-law needs which are only to live in hedonistic ways.

His relation to Itsuko, his widowed daughter, is also miserable. He hates her and accused her to disturb Satsuko. Therefore, it proves that Tokusuke Utsugi is not a good father to his children.

4. As a father in Law

Tokusuke Utsugi has ruined in the norm of relationship between a father in law and a daughter in law. He doesn't act as a normal father in law because he has been obsessed to have sexual affair with his daughter in law. He has broken the norm of the society about his role as a father in law.

Though he realizes that Satsuko has taken advantages on his obsession to her, Tokusuke keeps fulfilling whatever she wants. He gives her many expensive things such as a car, a designer scarf, a purse, and a cat's-eye ring.

"I didn't realize necking was so expensive."

"But it isn't just for today-you can do it anytime you like from now on."

"Still, it's only necking. A real kiss would be worth something, though."

How you talk! And you said you couldn't be more grateful" (Tanizaki, 1965: 72)

Satsuko offers necking session in her affair with Tokusuke because she wants to ask three million yen to buy a cat-eye ring jewel. She knows that after necking session, her father in law can not say NO to whatever she asks. Thus, it proves that Tokusuke doesn't act as a father in law but he acts as a blindly in love person who is obsessed to his own daughter in law.

V. THE POTRAIT OF A CULTURAL CHANGE OF JAPANESE FAMILY IN A *DIARY OF A MAD OLD MAN*

The conflicts found in *Diary of a mad old man* are the descriptions of modern life in Japan. The lack of respect and the hedonistic life are coloring the story in this novel. There are some cultural changes that can be found in this *Diary of a mad old man*. Since this *Diary of a mad old man* was written in 1965 (a postwar era), there is a big influence from the western culture in Japanese Family

Actually there are many cultural changes examples that can be found in *Diary of a mad old man*. But the writer will focus only on the cultural changes that are revealed by the conflicts around Tokusuke. Those cultural changes can be seen as follows:

1. The relationship between husband and wife

This story is mostly talking about the relationships in a family that are seen through Tokusuke point of view. Husband and wife's relationships are one of that relationship. There are two husband and wife's relationships which the writer thinks that can represent the cultural changes of Japanese family. These are:

a. Between Tokusuke and his wife

Tokusuke is always accompanied by his nurse 24 hours. It shows that his wife doesn't act as a dedicated wife. It should be her role accompanying her husband while he is sick. But here, she asks the nurse, Ms. Sasaki, to do her duties as a wife. And the way Tokusuke treats his wife also shows the cultural changes in Japanese family. By putting his wife position under Satsuko, Tokusuke doesn't follow the norm of traditional Japanese family. He puts the mistress position above his own wife.

b. Between Joikichi and Satsuko

The conflicts between Tokusuke and his wife about the marriage of Jokichi can tell us that this marriage is not blessed by the mother. In the traditional family, marriage was viewed as a liaison between households, and the members of the young couple had little or no say in the process. In fact, in this *Diary of a mad old man*, Jokichi married to Satsuko without his mother blessing. It means that Jokichi has broken the traditional rules about marriage. Without his mother blessing he still continued his marriage. Thus Satsuko and her mother in law are still quarrelling.

The marriage life between Joikichi and Satsuko is a picture about cultural changes in Japanese family. They only have one child. It's different with the Japanese family in the past that tend to have more than one child. Joikichi also lets his wife free in spending her time. He doesn't force his wife to take care their child. Thus it raises the conflict between Satsuko and her mother in law. And it becomes the conflict between Tokusuke and his wife since Tokusuke is always in the part of Satsuko.

Tokusuke's conflicts with Satsuko about her affair with Haruhisa also show that actually Jokichi has known about the affair. But Jokichi lets his wife has an affair. He thinks that his father needs Satsuko more than himself. That's why he never asks a divorce.

2. The position of a daughter in law

The cultural change in Japanese family can be seen in the function a daughter in law here. In traditional family, her primary function was to produce heirs, and she was expected to learn the ways of her new household under the tutelage of her mother-in-law. She was also expected to engage in the family business and ultimately to be the primary caretaker for her aged parents-in-law.

(<http://www.exeas.org/resources/pdf/japanese-family-imamura.pdf>)

As a mother, Satsuko doesn't act as the traditional family demand to a daughter in law. She doesn't remain in the lowest position since she is in delicate position. Tokusuke puts her in the top position in his family. Her mother in law cannot force her to give birth again since she only has one child. She likes to spend her time by shopping, classical flower arranging, films, boxing matches, and an adulterous affair with Tokusuke Utsugi's nephew, Haruhisa. She also doesn't take care her son well. She has never been acquainted with him. She always argued and in disagreement with her mother in law.

Those Satsuko's hedonistic life which is influenced by the western culture is the core problem that turn up the conflicts between Tokusuke and his family members. Thus, Satsuko's hedonistic life can be fulfilled by giving some affairs with her father in law.

3. The respect of family ancestor

The most important role of the family in traditional family was to preserve the household resources and pass them on to the next generation while honoring the family ancestors through household-based religious practices. (<http://www.exeas.org/resources/pdf/japanese-family-imamura.pdf>)

However in *Diary of a mad old man*, Tokusuke likes to spend his money to fulfill his obsession without considering his ancestor. He also doesn't show respect to his parents. He wants to destroy the place where his parents had spent their life there.

VI. CONCLUSION

Tokusuke as the main characters in *Diary of mad old man* has many conflicts with other members of his family. Thus by understanding the conflicts around him, the writer can get full understanding about the motivation that causes the conflicts in his family. The motivations behind those conflicts are mostly caused by his blind love to Satsuko. His obsession and his strong sexual desire make him against the whole family. He doesn't think about his family feelings. He just cares what Satsuko wants or asks eventhough it will cause conflicts with his wife and his children.

Moreover, those conflicts show that Tokusuke Utsugi's role in his family is very absurd. He doesn't care his children because he hates them. He also doesn't respect his wife. Thus his roles in his family show the cultural changes in Japanese families.

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