

# M.

## I . Introduction

### A. Cultures:

1. Western Culture:
  - a. God: no sex: He is all, both male and female.
  - b. Adam and Eve: A rib bone from Adam:
    - (1) Eve is partly male by her origin
    - (2). Eve is female. Eve is a part of Adam. Then a part of Adam is female.
2. Eastern Culture: The beginning of the world.
  - a. Chaos into darkness 陰 and brightness 陽.
  - b. They are two faces of one coin
    - (1) the same origin
    - (2) different characteristic by contrast → no meaning without the other.  
always mixed: day and night.

### B. Colonialism:

1. colonizing and colonized
2. history: wax and wane: strong → male; weak → female (or the opposite)

### C. Love relation:

1. Heterosexual relation
  - a. patriarchal society and matriarchal societies
    - (1) no strict division between man and woman
    - (2) different roles can be played by both sexes
    - (3) → shared abilities
  - b. modern idea of husband and wife
    - (1) both can be the financial supporter
    - (2) both can be the homemaker
    - (3) different role play in different family: male and female abuse (the extreme case)
2. Homosexuality:
  - a. homosexuality is recognized
  - b. talking about potential homo drive
  - c. homo: the dominance of opposite sex element in a sex.

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### D. Thesis Statement

Male and female are not absolute terms, at least, for human beings. Instead, they are proportions different in everybody. In M. Butterfly, the game played between

Gallimard and Song bases on such a premise of mixed nature. To look it from culture, colonialism, love relation and so on, Gallimard is no more a male character than Song and Song is no less a female than Gallimard. Both the male and female parts in Gallimard need to be satisfied. Such drives are the cause bringing him to Song's trap and the last scene of sacrifice.

## **II. People's ignorance of truth → what is the truth? :**

### **A. People: scene 2**

1. He still claims not to believe the truth. What is the truth to be believed?
2. A compelling case for sex education in the schools. Sex education should include sexual mentality.
3. Irony: Time flies when you're being stupid. G: not stupid but in love.
4. Illusion: Well, I thought the French were ladies men.
5. Can't see through the appearance: Well, he's not very good-looking.

### **B. Can we see through it?**

1. Reminiscence (dream-like): Shifting of time, space
2. Theater of the Absurd: talking to the audience, mixed with dream and reality
3. What is the truth behind his reminiscence and illusion?

## **III. Culture factor**

### **A. Stereotype: what are man and woman?**

1. loved and to be loved?
2. active and passive?

## **IV. Colonialism factor**

### **A. colonizing practice**

1. pp. 5 As the curtain rises, he's just closed on two great bargains: one on a house, the other on a woman—call it a package deal.

### **B. who is colonized?**

1. China is colonized → female → western (French) male
2. G is colonized by eastern fantasy
3. G can't see but such fantasy
  - a. why does Song choose him, the "least likely to be invited to a party"?
  - b. doubtful facts: her family, relatives; independence ; curiosity with politics; hidden secrets; goes to France all alone and can find him...

## **V. Love relation**

**A. what is love?**

1. definition
2. Song's idea
3. Gallimard's idea

**B. who provides love and who receives?**

1. Song's idea
2. Gallimard's idea

**C. who is the female (who is madam butterfly)?**

1. Song
2. Gallimard

**VI. Power relation, gaze****A. Gazing and being gazed:**

1. Gazing gives power but people who is gazed loses power
2. dream and reality are mixed: p1, stage performance: people on stage are being gazed by the audience → Song as a actress on the stage is being gazed by Gallimard
3. he observes them from his cell: Gallimard looks at events from his cell.
4. Gallimard demands to see Song's body
5. Song is gazed by G but G is also spied (gazed) by Song and spies.

**VII. Song's process of revealing the truth****A. practice and experience his female character, both literal and mental.**

1. play a perfect woman

**B. satisfy his male and female character, in between giver and receiver.**

1. accompany Gallimard in a marital relationship

**C. revelation of his true identity cuts him from such satisfaction.****D. Trying to be satisfied**

1. stay in control
2. make his identity to be recognized by proving that he is once loved.

**E. Song is both male and female****VIII. Gallimard's process of knowing the truth****A. full of fantasy**

1. cultural stereotype
2. Madame Butterfly
  - a. the perfect woman

(1) p5 G: Its heroine, Cio-Cio-San, also known as Butterfly, is a

feminine ideal, beautiful and **brave**.

b. Identify himself with Pinkerton

(1) pp 5 G: (*He pulls out a naval officer's cap from under his crate, pops it on his head, and struts about*)

3. a need to be loved (in his way)

### **B. fantasy fulfilled**

1. Song appears to be a butterfly

2. succeed in making Song his butterfly

3. keep his dream

a. Song returns

b. have his own baby

### **C. breakdown of fantasy**

### **D. retelling the story**

1. a need to be understood

2. reconstruct the event

a. narrative medicine

1. walk through the trauma

2. give meaning to the event

### **E. final understanding**

1. laugh at himself

2. say goodbye to Song

3. commit suicide

## **IX. Gallimard's death**

### **A. why does he commit suicide**

1. protect his honor

a. few people understand the story

2. has completed his story

a. told the story

b. come to an end of perfection → himself is the butterfly

3. more than losing Song

a. breakdown of self identity

(1) the Gallimard worthy to be loved

(2) the Gallimard who loves fully a perfect woman

4. complete his idea of perfection

a. preserve the butterfly he loves

b. preserve his ideal self identity

c. complete the sacrifice

(1) so that the butterfly attains perfection

## **X. Conclusion**

### **A. absolute male and female distinction seems to breakdown in modern society**

1. homosexuality
2. equality
  - a. education
  - b. responsibilities and rights

### **B. M. Butterfly depicts the phenomenon**

### **C. observation of bisexual factor in human beings should be acknowledged in order to understand ourselves**