16 Point Essay

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English literature is full of many masterpieces that glorify the cultural aspects of various different regions of the world. Many pieces of writing praise these cultural values while there are many others that criticize them. One of such brilliant pieces of writings is “The Ballad of East and West” penned down by Rudyard Kipling, in which he describes the difference between the cultures of two places in the following line “Oh East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet.”

Basically, the world has been culturally divided into major parts, the East and the West. The East part of the world denominates the countries that lie in the far east of the globe, that are, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Asia (especially South Asia), Australia, New Zealand etc., whereas the West part of the world denominates the countries like America (South and North America), Canada, and the United Kingdom. The culture of both the parts of the world is completely different from each other, and many scholars and experts hold the opinion that both can never mix and amalgamate. There are clearly drawn lines between the cultures of both regions and this has been going on for a really long time, in fact from the beginning of times.

In my personal opinion, the statement presented by Rudyard Kipling in his famous poem, “The Ballad of East and West” about the cultural discrepancies of east and west, that the people from both the regions are so different that it is almost impossible for them to understand each other, does not stand to be true. The times are changing now and there are many values that are being transferred from the West to East and vice versa.

This cultural difference is also clearly depicted in two other pieces of writing “From Emperor to Citizen: The Autobiography of Aisin-Gioro Pu Yi” and “The Tall Woman and Her Short Husband”. The first story depicts this cultural difference through the eyes of an emperor 1 while the former one talks about the perception of people under the influence of the cultural values and how people find the other people, who do not fit in their idea of normality, strange and weird 2.

Reference List/Endnotes:

1. FENG J. THE'TALL WOMAN AND HER SHORT HUSBAND'+'GAO NUREN HE TADE WEI ZHANGFU', TRANSLATED FROM THE CHINESE BY YANG, GLADYS.
2. Pu-Yi AG, Jenner WJ. From emperor to citizen: the autobiography of Aisin-Gioro Pu Yi. Foreign Languages Press; 1964.