

Exploration of Linguistic Characteristics of British and American Literature from a Cross-Cultural Perspective

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Abstract: Literary works are supported by language, which can fully express the emotions of literary works. Teachers and students can analyze the linguistic characteristics of different regional cultures from a cross-cultural perspective when discussing English and American literary works. They can effectively study the artistic images based on English and American literary works, so that students can be interested in learning English and American literature, which will further enhance students' language communication and perception abilities.

1. Introduction

Literary works can present the artistry of language to some extent, and excellent literary works can effectively reflect the culture of a specific era. Usually, literary works have obvious characteristics of culturality, contemporaneity and regionalism ^[1]. British and American literature assists language to present literary and artistic images to readers and to convey humanistic significance and emotions to readers. Effective exploration of the language art of British and American literature from a cross-cultural perspective helps students better appreciate and understand British and American literary works.

2. The cross-cultural background of British and American literature

Cross culture refers to the communication and interaction between two or more different cultural backgrounds. Cross culture is a broad concept that encompasses many different fields. Cultural background can greatly influence literary works. A good cultural soil nurtures excellent British and American literary works, which can well carry historical and cultural values ^[2]. The culture of British and American literary works mostly comes from Christian culture and ancient Greek and Roman culture. Ancient Rome is very close to Ancient Greek art, and Roman art is the extension, inheritance and development of Ancient Greek art. They jointly laid the foundation of Western civilization and became the cradle of Western civilization. In a word, Greek art and Roman art are directly related to their national spirit. The Greeks and Romans jointly created Western classical culture, forming the source of Western civilization. Their commonality lies in their democratic and scientific nature, but Greece and Rome each have their own characteristics. Greece is more

idealistic in spirit, and Rome is more imbued with the spirit of realism. Nowadays, whether it is the spirit of idealism or realism, the artistic civilization of Greece and Rome is worth learning and exploring.

2.1. The influence of Roman culture on British and American literature

The ancient Greek and Roman culture laid a good cultural foundation for the creation of British and American literary works. British and American literary works have two obvious characteristics that are related to ancient Greek and Roman culture ^[3]. Firstly, British and American literary works have more materials from ancient Greek and Roman legends. For example, Aristophanes and Dante will choose suitable creative materials from ancient Greek mythology to express cultural interests through mythology. Secondly, British and American literary writers will appropriately infiltrate mythological images in their creation. Readers can find the shadow of ancient Greek mythology and legends in the images of literary works. Although some mythological images are incomplete, they are also loved by many people. These mythical images can provide good creative materials for the creation of British and American literary works.

2.2. The influence of Christian culture on British and American literature

The language creation of English and American literary works is influenced by Christian culture. For example, *the Bible* contains more Christian culture ^[4]. Some British and American literary works will appropriately quote the stories and materials in *the Bible*, and some will quote the profound truth contained in the stories in *the Bible*, and some writers will integrate the Christian culture emotion in *the Bible* when creating British and American literary works.

3. The linguistic characteristics of British and American literature from a cross-cultural perspective

3.1. The use of dramatic monologues

Most British and American literature use dramatic monologues which have become a prominent feature of British and American literature. Dramatic monologue mainly refers to the presence of the creator's voiceover in the works, which separates the voiceover from the lines of other characters in the works. Direct inner monologue is a type of monologue that involves neither the author nor a hypothetical audience when describing it. It can directly present consciousness to the reader without the author acting as an intermediary. In other words, the author, along with his guiding words such as "he said" and "he thought", and his explanatory discourse, have disappeared or are almost disappeared from the page of the book ^[5]. Indirect inner monologues use an omniscient author to showcase materials that are beyond words, as if they flow directly from the character's consciousness, and the author provides a guide for readers to read monologues through comments and descriptions ^[6]. The author's scientific use of dramatic monologue not only creates richer and more realistic character images, but also allows readers to think while reading, so that readers can better grasp the author's writing ideas and engage in soul communication with the author. Finally, readers will have a comprehensive understanding of the works.

3.2. Originating from real life

Most British and American literature originate from real life, and writers usually depict the real life of the people in their time in literary works. Therefore, when exploring and interpreting British

and American literature, people not only need to pay attention to the literary artistry of the works, but also need to understand the cultural characteristics and historical background of the literary works, and then interpret the works based on the language characteristics of English itself. Literature can effectively reflect the thoughts of writers, and the language of British and American literature can reflect and summarize the era in which writers live. Every British and American literature can present relevant characteristics of the times, and a literary works can actually reflect a shrinking world. The development of long history has created different works of inspiration for writers of different eras. Writers create literary works based on their life experiences, which can sublimate life and deeply interrogate history and humanity. Therefore, British and American literature have certain historical research and cultural value.

3.3. Making full use of quotations and allusions

A nation will gradually form some classics in its development process, which can provide creative inspiration for writers, and British and American literature will also use classics in its development. British and American writers use classics in various aspects of their creations, which enriches the content of literary works. Quoting scriptures can make it easier to understand philosophical ideas that are difficult to be understood in literary works, so that readers can understand ideas by reading vivid and interesting stories. It has become a prominent feature of British and American literature.

4. Principles to be followed in exploring the linguistic characteristics of British and American literature from a cross-cultural perspective

4.1. Principle of respecting cultural differences

Cross-cultural awareness refers to the ability to recognize and understand the differences between different cultures, and to accept and respect these differences. It includes awareness and understanding of one's own culture and the culture of others, as well as an understanding of the mutual influence and interaction between different cultures. The importance of cross-cultural awareness is that it helps us avoid misunderstanding, prejudice and cultural conflict, and promotes mutual understanding and communication between different cultures. Cultural differences in different regions are a normal phenomenon. When exploring the language characteristics of British and American literature, people must respect cultural differences, and readers need to use objective and calm perspectives to effectively read and explore the works. The process of readers' reading is actually a process of creating literary works for the second time. The basic requirement for readers to read literary works is to respect and understand the ideological content expressed by the author. If readers only want to understand the information they want to know from literary works, then they only need to have good text recognition skills. If readers want to have a deep understanding of the writing background of literary works and a deeper understanding of the historical and cultural aspects of literary works, they need to have a certain accumulation of reading to ensure that they abandon the "colored glasses" of reading and respect cultural differences, so as to fully reflect the value of British and American literary works.

4.2. Principle of conducting exploration based on the characteristics of the times

Excellent literary works can effectively present the social style and living environment of people, so they will have obvious distinctive characteristics of the times. The words in English and American literature often have a strong sense of the times, which reflects the stories that have

occurred in history. Therefore, when appreciating British and American literature, readers need to combine their reading with the historical background of the work, so that they can feel the atmosphere and characteristics of the times from the literary works, and then understand the content and ideas of the works. When exploring British and American literature, people need to break the gap between eastern and western literature, and reasonably compare the differences between English literature and Chinese literature in terms of language, content, and artistic forms of expression, so that Chinese cultural undertakings can be well developed and Chinese cultural strength can be further improved.

4.3. Principle of understanding the unique charm of language and writing in literary works

British and American literature has a huge literary system, among which there are many classic works, and the writers have diverse and different styles and schools. When studying the British and American literary system, we need not only to read British and American literature, but also to explore the concise, vivid, and accurate language characteristics of British and American literature. Generally, writers who can create classic British and American literature choose to use concise and lively language when creating. For example, in the classic literary works, *The Old Man and the Sea*, Hemingway only describes a simple fishing action, and readers can feel a calm, brave, and resolute image of a tough man in the works. When reading these British and American literature, readers need to have an understanding of the author's writing techniques and language charm, and can learn from the expressive techniques of excellent literature in their writing.

5. Conclusion

British and American literature can effectively present the cultural development and aesthetic views of the West. British and American literature can effectively present the characteristics of the times and ethnic connotations of Western countries, and can also effectively reflect Western cultural consciousness and ideas. Therefore, we need to comprehensively explore and analyze the linguistic characteristics of British and American literature from a cross-cultural perspective to promote the development of Chinese culture.

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