

The Music Aesthetic Analysis of the Animated Film “Coco”

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Abstract—When music and animated films are mixed, music becomes a characteristic element and symbol in an animated film. And it has become an important part of the animated film and plays a very important role in animated films, which can not only shape the image of the main characters in the animated film, but also describe and express the inner world of all the characters in the animated film. And through the presentation of music in different time, plots, styles and countries in the animated film, the level development of the whole animated film plot is rendered. At the same time, through different music, people have a deeper understanding of the content, culture, emotions and themes that the film and the creators want to interpret. This paper combines music of the animated film *Coco* to carry out an aesthetic analysis of music.

Keywords—*animated film; music; Coco; music aesthetic analysis*

I. INTRODUCTION

In the fast-paced life of modern cities, people's daily work and life pressures are relatively large. Especially in the fast-paced work intensity, more and more people pay more attention to the spiritual relaxation and spiritual and cultural life after work. The film is one of the most popular and popular art in the world and one of the ways to enjoy leisure and relaxation when people end their day of high-pressure work or holidays. The film is a comprehensive modern art that covers people's visual and auditory senses. The film combines various images of drama, photography, art, music, dance, writing, architecture and so on. It can be said that the film is very clever use of modern technology and modern art and perfectly combines the two to show people the current status, emotions, culture and art of people in social life.

Animated film can be understood as a type of comprehensive art of film. It is not a film that has been filmed by actors in the traditional sense. Animated movies are movies created by computer production or filming. Regardless of the style or subject matter of the film, one of the important factors that determine whether a film is exciting or memorable is the soundtrack of the film — film music. Music has always been one of the most unique art forms. It not only has its own unique charm, but when it is

combined with other art forms, it will also produce new effects, giving people different shocks and spiritual feelings. Film music is music created specifically for films. Usually, film music is displayed in films in the form of film theme songs, movie clip episodes, and film endings. Film music generally includes the following types of music: one is a soundtrack of a pure instrument created by various instruments; the other is a song sung by a singer. The music of an animated film is different from the traditional film music. The creation of animated film music needs to combine the story plot, story content, cultural connotation, the theme of animated film, and the style of animated film to be displayed in the animated film itself. It requires every detail and symbol of animated film music to be integrated with an animated film and to promote the plot of the entire animated film. *Coco* is an animated film with its own style. It is not only very novel, but also sets and creates animated films from the perspective of “undead”. Moreover, its film music is also very regional and cultural, and the style is cleverly blended with traditional Mexican culture. The theme song of *Remember Me* is constantly appearing in the movie, which cleverly promotes the development of the whole animated film plot, and makes it easier for the audience to understand the connotation of the entire animated film and the director's expression intention. It can be said that it brings people a kind of visual and auditory enjoyment.

II. ANALYSIS OF THE AESTHETIC FUNCTION OF FILM MUSIC

From the existing theory of film art, film music basically contains several main functions: expressing the emotional color of the movie, rendering the atmosphere of the whole movie, expressing a commentary through music, and depicting the scene and the plot, paving the way for the development of the film plot and so on. For example, in the movie *So Young*, the actress Zheng Wei sang *Red Sun* in the movie, which paved the way for the development of the plot. The song *Red Sun* uses the very rhythmic melody and the lyrics full of positive energy to set off the youthful atmosphere of the heroine Zheng Wei in college. Through this song, the author also made a good background and contrast between the perseverance, dare to love and hate of the heroine Zheng Wei's character and the sensitive and

neutral character of the male protagonist. It also paved the way for the storyline of the next movie. All the functions of film music are not unique, and the artistic conception of the soundtrack is different in each segment of the film. At the same time, film music also allows people to learn more styles and national music from movies with different styles and subjects. It has subtly enhanced people's ability to appreciate music and opened the door for people to touch music from all over the world.

III. THE CONTENT OF THE ANIMATED FILM *COCO*

Coco is an animated film produced by Pixar Animation Studios, a commercial cinema animated film released by Walt Disney Pictures. At the same time, *Coco* is also the 19th animated feature film of Pixar Animation Studio. This animated film is based on the traditional culture of Mexico, and the Day of the Dead is also a feature of the film. The protagonist of this animated film is a 12-year-old boy MiG and a fallen musician, Ekotto, who is from an ordinary family in Mexico. Mig, one of the protagonists in this animated film, although he is only 12 years old, he likes music very much since he was a child. It can be said that he has a very hot heart of pursuing music dreams. But MiG's family is a local shoemaker in Mexico. From his grandparents, he no longer allowed members of the family to re-engage or engage in music-related occupations. And every member of his family believes that their family has been cursed and that contact or concert has brought disaster or misfortune to their family. In the annual Day of the Dead Festival, Mig argues with his family because he wants to go to the music competition. Under the impulse, he decided to find and realize his own musical dream through his own secret way. In order to find the guitar for the performance, he broke into the place where the song god was sacrificed, and wanted to borrow the guitar of the "God of Song" on the altar. He took the guitar with great curiosity, and when the magic happened, he unexpectedly entered another wonderful world - "the world of the undead." On the day of the annual Undead Festival, the "people" in the undead world will return to our world through the petal bridge and meet with their families, friends and family. Although we can't really see them, these "people" will see their loved ones who have long lived because they return to our world. When Mig accidentally stepped into the world of the undead, in addition to being shocked by the undead world in front of him, he was also pleasantly surprised to meet his family's elders. And after a series of events that followed, he discovered the secret between his grandfather and the god of the song, and with the help of the family elders, after overcoming various difficulties, returned to our world. When he returned to our world, he sang his grandmother's song written to his grandmother by his grandmother, and let her grandmother remember her father. And he also let the family's elders know that their grandfather was framed in the past, not that their family was cursed by music. In the end, he also received the support and understanding of his family, and agreed to support his passionate and inspirational animated film that continues to pursue his musical dreams.

IV. THE MUSIC AESTHETIC ANALYSIS OF THE ANIMATED FILM *COCO*

A. *The Musical Plot Features of the Animated Film Coco*

Although the animated film *Coco* is still a fairy tale route full of warm colors in the arrangement of the whole movie story, the very distinctive feature of this animated film is that it is just right to mix the "death" topic that people are afraid of with the "dream" full of positive energy and the "family" that expresses strong emotions and then it is presented to the audience through an animated film and soundtrack. Regarding the topic of "death", whether it is a weather-beaten adult or a childish child, it is unwilling to talk about and touch. But this animated film has more than once laid a variety of clues about the "undead world" in the development of the plot. Even the "Undead World" has become the main scene of the entire animated film, and some important characters in the film are also shown in the image of "skull". The film, through the Day of the Dead, links two parallel spaces that seem impossible to intersect. And let the loved ones of the two worlds feel the love from their loved ones through the festival of the Day of the Dead, even if they are not around, but the love of the family has never left us. The gorgeous colors and warm plots in the animated film *Coco*, coupled with the warm Mexican music *Remember Me*, make death no longer a terrible thing. Let people also have a new thinking and understanding of "death" and "life" from the perspective of "memory" and "forgetting". For example, another interpretation of death in the film: When no one in real life remembers you, in this world there is no proof and imprint of your existence, this is the real death. Through such a special plot, *Coco* makes it easier for viewers to accept the true meaning of this animated film emotionally, and also how important "memory" is.

B. *Music Design of the Animated Film Coco*

In this animated film with very traditional Mexican folk culture, not only the paper-cut art representing Mexican traditional culture is consistently presented in the film, but the soundtrack in this animated film is also very distinctive. Using the characteristics of traditional Mexican music, the soundtrack is accompanied by the slow and sometimes rapid rhythm of the animated film plot, and it is easy to put the audience into the whole plot of the animated film, making people feel like they are in an animated film. As the theme song of this animated film, *Remember Me*, it has been repeated repeatedly in the film, and it has appeared as many as six times. MiG heard the song God Dracus sang this song for the first time on the stage, fell in love with Dracus, and began to pursue the music in disregard of his family's opposition. It also laid the foundation for the reversal of the second half of the film. The last time this "Remember Me" sounded in the film, it was Mig's grandmother, Coco, who was about to reach the end of her life. In order to let great grandpa, musician Ekotto, the father of Coco, stay in the world of the undead. Mig sang to Coco grandma *Remember Me*. He hopes to awaken grandma's memory of her father through the song that Coco grandma likes most and that her father created for her. When Coco grandma and Mig sang this song together, not only the memory of Coco grandma

was awakened, but also Coco grandma and her family felt the sincere love of the great grandpa. It can be seen that the song *Remember Me* is not freely presented in the entire animated film. Every time *Remember Me* music sounds in the film, it actually indicates that there will be some changes in the plot of this animated film. Although this animated film is superficially based on the main line of Mig's pursuit of music dreams, it is not entirely true. The core of the film is always about the family. The song *Remember Me* is very in-depth to convey the theme and cultural connotation expressed in this film to the audience.

C. Displaying Mexican Folk Music Through the Animated Film *Coco*

Today, under the general trend of the development of world economic integration, the continuous development of technology and networks has also made the world's culture and finance more diverse. In *Coco*, Mexico's folk culture is one of the characteristics and themes of the entire animated film. It is different from the previous Hollywood animated film to present the mainstream culture of the West as the focus of communication and expression. This animated film, although not a traditional human-oriented film, is based on traditional Mexican music, and invites local Mexican musicians to combine their national traditional instruments to interpret and interpret songs, which makes Mexican music more authentic and presents the unique regional culture and national culture of Mexico, and the presentation of the film is also a good interpretation of the nationality is the world. The animated film *Coco* continues to sing and interspersed with the always-on Mexican-style music. The details of this film also reflect the influence of music on Mexico and the nation.

V. CONCLUSION

The animated film *Coco* uses a lot of different Mexican music and traditional paper-cutting art, and will extend the deeper connotation from the seemingly simple Mig to follow the theme of music dreams. It allows people to feel the details of music and animated film content to see how important family relationships are in people's lives. It also guides people to explore death, and no longer fears death, with a more positive attitude to face the fact that their loved ones will eventually leave us, makes people understand that their love will not disappear with the death of their loved ones, and will always accompany us. The success of *Coco* is inseparable from the clever use of music in the film.

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