

The Appreciation and Enlightenment of Wang Xifeng's Language Arts in "A Dream in Red Mansions"

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ABSTRACT

The description of Wang Xifeng's language in "A Dream in Red Mansions" has great originality. In the process of managing the Jia Mansion, Wang Xifeng can pass on her work ideas in the form of language to her superiors or subordinates. Wang Xifeng has to deal with lots of social figures and various complicated and tricky things in management. Her language is quick-witted, adaptable, and humorous, and can subtly resolve various contradictions. This paper combines Wang Xifeng's language arts to superiors, peers, and subordinates, and analyzes the specific background and context of Wang Xifeng's language in the text. Wang Xifeng's language art is reflected through leadership activities, which is an important lesson for the cultivation of contemporary female leadership language arts.

Keywords: Wang Xifeng, language arts, female leadership, appreciation and enlightenment

I. INTRODUCTION

Language is the bond of communication between people. The language arts of "A Dream in Red Mansions" reached its pinnacle, especially the description of Wang Xifeng's language, which can be said to have reached an incomparably wonderful state, and Wang Xifeng is one of the most successful characters portrayed in the novel. Although Wang Xifeng doesn't read much, she has the gift of gab, and can be smart and capable through experience. Her language is mostly picked from the real life of society, which is concise, vivid, and nifty, and she is especially good at comprehending the minds of the key figures in the Jia Mansion. In today's highly competitive society, as a female leader in the process of implementing leadership, using appropriate means of expression and appropriate language expression can not only enhance personal charm, but also is a core skill necessary for career development.

II. THE LANGUAGE ARTS TO SUPERIORS

In Chapter 3, when Wang Xifeng first met Lin Daiyu, she said: "There really is such a beautiful girl in the world, and I don't see her until today. Besides, the style of her is not like the granddaughter of the old ancestress, but the granddaughter of blood relations. No

wonder the old ancestress speaks of her every day".[1]

The two sentences that Wang Xifeng has at hand do indeed have a pragmatic superimposing effect, not only praising Lin Daiyu, but also praising the three sisters in the Jia Mansion. The first sentence compliments Daiyu's beauty and humbles her own ignorance. In the second sentence, Wang Xifeng indirectly praises Mrs Jia and Yingchun, Tanchun and Xichun through Daiyu. The ingenuity of this sentence is that while praising Daiyu, Wang Xifeng also praises the three sisters Yingchun, Tanchun and Xichun. The reason why Daiyu is so outstanding is because that she is like a granddaughter of "blood relations". In the Jia Mansion with Mrs Jia as its core, while praising Daiyu, Wang Xifeng speaks to Mrs Jia indirectly. Wang Xifeng understands very well that it is very necessary to show Daiyu that Mrs Jia misses her and her position in Mrs Jia's heart through herself, which caters to the psychological needs of Mrs Jia and Daiyu. Wang Xifeng doesn't directly tell Daiyu how Mrs Jia misses her. This situation will make Mrs Jia, Daiyu and the people present more sad, and the meeting scene will be in a sad situation. Wang Xifeng's language is just right to make the compliment fair and reasonable, and give full play to the practical effect of the language.

In Chapter 72, the eunuch Xia in the palace uses an excuse to buy a real estate and sends someone to the Jia Mansion to borrow two hundred taels of silver, and promises to return it together with the previously borrowed in the future. Wang Xifeng comes out calmly to deal with this situation. Xifeng listens and says with a smile: "There is no lack of taels of silver, just take it

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first. You may pay back when we are short of money in another day. "[1]

In interpersonal communication, in addition to language, body language often expresses the more real thoughts of the characters. During the conversation with the small eunuch, it can be seen that Wang Xifeng has always been "smiling...". She knows very well that although she is facing the small eunuch, the master of the small eunuch is the eunuch Xia, and this person must never be offended. When Wang Xifeng hears that the eunuch Xia is going to return the taels of silver at the end of the year, she says, "I'm afraid there is none. If there is, you may just take it." This sentence sounds gentle and polite on the surface, but in essence it is a wolf in sheep's clothing, which indirectly shows the attitude of the Jia Mansion. Although there is no urging to pay back the money, the people in Jia Mansion are not easy to fool. You may feel uncomfortable taking the money you borrow. You'd better think over, know your place, and do not rip off in our place from time to time. [2]

In the workplace, it is essential for leaders to affirm and compliment others, but when praising others, you must grasp the degree, and can't blindly flatter away from reality. To praise people is to be sincere and not perfunctory. Praise is a natural expression of true feelings. Appropriate compliments can be made according to the different characteristics of the characters when complimenting, and specific and clear or indirect compliment methods can be used according to different situations. Praising others can meet their psychological needs, increase their self-confidence, and form a virtuous circle of interpersonal relationships. It can be seen that praising others is an essential skill for leaders to handle interpersonal relationships and expand their business. In the work, leaders will face dilemmas, and a word can both prosper and defeat the country. The small eunuch returns back by a few words from Xifeng, exerting the well-leveraged effect of languages. It doesn't violate the intention of the superior, but also let people see that Wang Xifeng is everywhere for the sake of the superior, letting the superior be satisfied, and her occasionally flattering words are watertight, leaving no trace. These words all reflect that Wang Xifeng always keeps a clear and sensible mind, has a sense of the overall situation, is neither humble nor pushy to her superiors, and calmly responds to various situations that appear, reflecting the due responsibility and quality of female leaders.

III. THE LANGUAGE ARTS TO PEERS

In Chapter 45, Yingchun and others establishes a poetry society in Grand View Garden. However, the poetry society lacks operating expenses, and Li Wan comes up with an idea to invite Xifeng to be the supervisory censor of the poetry society. Xifeng knows

the purpose of coming of Li Wan what she hears the news, so she smiles and says, "Well, don't coax me. You are not inviting me as the supervisory censor but want me to be a copper merchant who pays." [1]

This sentence is for the misses, which is straight to the point, being straightforward and humorous. Wang Xifeng uses humorous language in front of the misses, exposing their "little trick", not only seeming kind, but also narrowing the distance between sisters-in-law. When Li Wan speaks, Wang Xifeng changes the conversation and says with a smile: "You even are the eldest sister-in-law. When they plan to start a poetry society this time, how much money can they use? However, you don't support."

In fact, Wang Xifeng has already guessed that in surface, they want to invite her to serve as the supervisory censor of the poetry society, but in fact, they want to ask her for the cost of the poetry society. These misses don't have such thoughts, and the master behind the instigation must be Li Wan. Wang Xifeng and Li Wan are both wives of the grandson-generations in the Jia Mansion, and they should enjoy the same treatment. However, due to Li Wan's special situation, Mrs Jia understands and sympathizes with the orphan and the widow, so Li Wan's treatment is higher than that of wives of the grandson-generations. Regarding this, Wang Xifeng has always kept it in her heart, and when she meets the opportunity, she expresses it. Although it is in the form of a joke, the dissatisfaction in Wang Xifeng's heart is vented in this way. The feudal patriarchal society is strictly hierarchical, and wives of brothers should live in harmony. It is their duty not to cause troubles. Wang Xifeng naturally understands this truth, so she uses a humorous way in her verbal expressions, and stops at where it should. This degree is difficult for ordinary people to control. It is not only a kind of language skill, but also reflects the golden mean of traditional culture, which is in line with the Chinese language style of metaphor.

In Chapter 68, after discovering that Jia Lian secretly married Second Sister You, Wang Xifeng decides to deceive Second Sister You to the Jia Mansion after giving it some thought. In order to gain the sympathy and trust of the Second Sister You, Wang Xifeng says: "If my sister is outside the Jia Mansion and I'm inside, even if I may be silly and nidering, I'm unable to keep my sister accompany, then how can I be relieved in my heart... Today, I come here to ask my sister to come in the Jia Mansion and live together with me, sharing the same treatment, waiting upon parents-in-law, and remonstrating our husband together..." As she says, she whimpers and cries. [1]

Judging from this passage, the language is refined and logically rigorous, being trenchant. Wang Xifeng appears to be humble and kind, and the content of her speech is as large as ethics and morals, and as small as

intimate loves, with feelings to make people touched, and with reasons to make people understand. She deserves to be a very scheming persuader. If you pay more attention, you will find that these words are quite different from Xifeng's usual language habits. Xifeng's language is basically colloquial, but this passage is very literary. Analyzing from this kind of strong language contrast, Wang Xifeng has done enough work this time and came prepared. She explains that she is not out of jealousy from two aspects, eliminating the doubts of Second Sister You. [3] Wang Xifeng's elaborate words finally win the understanding and trust of Second Sister You.

Humor often acts as a catalyst in social interaction. Humorous language can easily open up the social situation and make the atmosphere relaxed and active. When encountering embarrassing situations or disagreements, humorous language is a buffer in a tense situation, which can get rid of the dilemma of the conversation or eliminate hostility. Whether a person is successful in his career or not, one can't ignore the relationship with his peers. Wang Xifeng's life skills have profound implications for the handling of interpersonal relationships between peers. There is both competition and cooperation between peers. More importantly, facing the same superior, each has his own way of dealing with affairs. If you don't get along well with peers, it's hard to succeed at work. Therefore, female leaders need to come off their perch and use humorous language appropriately in order to narrow the distance between each other and achieve the effect of half the work with double results. Persuasion is everywhere in the leadership process. Persuasion mainly enables the other party to accept his own point of view, keep pace with himself in thought and action, and reduce resistance to achieve organizational goals. But everyone's thoughts and opinions are closely related to his position and interests, and they will not be easily persuaded. Leaders have always attached great importance to the role of persuasion. Persuasion has played an important role as an important means of communication in history. Female leaders need to use their superb language skills to persuade others to accept their opinions, unify the thinking between the superior and the subordinate, and enhance the cohesion and execution of the organization.

IV. THE LANGUAGE ARTS TO SUBORDINATES

In Chapter 6, the severe winter is approaching. Grandmother Liu's family really can't get along. Seeing to be cold and starving, she racks her brains and finally thinks of the relatives of the Jia Mansion, hoping to get some help. Wang Xifeng and Grandmother Liu don't know each other. When Wang Xifeng knows Grandmother Liu's intentions, she smiles and says, "The relatives don't get around much, they are all estranged... Those villains who don't know may think

that we are being supercilious. Grandmother Liu chants the name of Buddhism promptly: "Our family is in straitened circumstances and can't afford to get around, ..." [1]

In order to break the constraints of the conversation at the first meeting, Xifeng points out that the reason why they don't know each other is because relatives like Grandmother Liu dislike them and refuse to get around often. Xifeng's words do not really blame someone, but to give both sides an out, so that Grandmother Liu, who has a disparity in identity and does not know each other, is no longer restrained. Grandmother Liu says that her family is poor and dares not to get around, and she is afraid her family will cause trouble to relatives. Listening to this, Wang Xifeng's language is more appropriate to the situation. She says that her husband is just a poor official through the grace of ancestors. As the saying goes, "the court may still have some poor relatives", letting alone you and me. This sentence implies two meanings. The first level responds to Grandmother Liu's words, through greetings and modesty, she explains that the Jia Mansion's situation is not as good as before. The other level means that every family will have poor relatives, which paves the way for subsequent conversations. With this sentence, Grandmother Liu's difficulties may have solutions. [4]

Knowing that Grandmother Liu rushed early in the morning and didn't eat yet, Xifeng arranges for Grandmother Liu to go eating first, while sending someone from Zhou Rui's family to ask Mrs. Wang for instructions. When Grandmother Liu finishes eating, Xifeng smiles and says, "Please sit down and listen to me... What a coincidence, Mrs. gave me twenty taels of silver to make clothes for my girls yesterday. I haven't used yet. If you don't mind, just take the money for now."

The first sentence of this passage is a polite remark, although it comes from Xifeng's sincerity, it can be known that it is just an opening greeting. The second sentence shows that the current situation in Jia Mansion, which is a reveal of the true situation, sincere and without concealment. But in the hearts of others, no one believes such a Jia Mansion, and Grandmother Liu will not believe it either. The third sentence has been put in place to solve the actual difficulties of Grandmother Liu. Although the current situation is not as good as before, when our relatives are in trouble, we naturally try to help them. [5] So Xifeng gives Grandmother Liu the twenty taels of silver that Mrs. Wang gave to her to make clothes for her children to relieve Grandmother Liu's urgent need. Wang Xifeng is good at grasping reality. The above three sentences are both fictitious and true, with both sincere and hypocrisy, both truth and hidden facts. Therefore, from the perspective of speaking ability in communication, both the accuracy of information transmission and the

appropriateness of words are decent, measured and appropriate.

As the housekeeper of Rongguo Mansion, Wang Xifeng has to face all kinds of people and deal with them, which makes her see the world. So her language will be adjusted accordingly to different characters and situations. Outside and in the Jia Mansion, masters are after all a minority, and more are servants, maidservants, married women, and elderly woman servants. In the workplace, female leaders not only communicate with their superiors and peers, but also communicate with their subordinates at work, and communication with subordinates seems to better reflect the true character of the leader. [6] Although Wang Xifeng is a young housekeeper in the Jia Mansion, it is the existence of a large number of subordinates that makes Wang Xifeng's image more vivid and more life-like, beyond the image of Wang Xifeng itself, which makes this female leader of the Jia Mansion reflect a broader practical significance. Therefore, in interpersonal communication, in order to ensure the smooth progress of the conversation and create a good atmosphere, female leaders should treat people differently according to the other's cultural level, language habits, etc., and they must have empathy. At work, female leaders also need to be reasonable and appropriate, and speak decently, so that their subordinates can follow their own ideas and achieve the desired results of the leadership.

V. CONCLUSION

In a highly information-based modern society, language expression is still one of the important forms of information transmission. For female leaders to be independent in the workplace and have a good public image, their language art is particularly important. "A Dream in Red Mansions" successfully portrays the character of Wang Xifeng. Its superb language art has fixed the classic image of Wang Xifeng, and it has also found a cultural reference system for female leaders in literary works, providing inspirations of language arts. For the language arts of leadership, it is difficult to find a patterned method to imitate, because art itself focuses on "understanding". Every sentence of Wang Xifeng's language listed in the paper has a specific background and context. Without the context of the conversation, all words are meaningless. Female leaders should not only learn the words and sentences of Wang Xifeng's language, but also learn her wisdom in using language. The language arts of leadership need to be continuously experienced at work, and finally internalized into the leadership's unique thinking style, in order to make a leader be both knowledgeable and good at speech, so as to improve the language arts of female leaders.

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