

Study on the Borrowing of Love Theme in Classical Poems

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ABSTRACT

Love is one of the basic themes of literature. The theme of love is common in Chinese classical poetry, showing a unique style and feature. The expression of love theme depends on language expression and meaning construction, and depends on people's experience and cognition. Metonymy is one of the basic cognitive methods. People's understanding of poetry involves the cognitive processing of metonymy. Metonymy plays an important role in the expression of love theme in Chinese classical love poems. Therefore, metonymy also affects the representation of love theme. In view of this, this study takes the metaphor of love theme in classical poetry as the discussion angle, starting from the ancient poetry works, selects the typical theme metonymy to elaborate the influence of the re appearance of love theme in poetry. Through the study, this paper finds that the theme metonymy in Chinese classical love poems affects the change of the themes in different dynasties.

Keywords: love view, theme, ideological connotation

I. INTRODUCTION

"Poems expressing wills" has always been the core of poetry creation in ancient China. When literati faced political struggles, there would always be some unsatisfactory times. These literati bachelors then would express their ambitions through the theme of love. Therefore, many ancient poetry works sought comfort in the landscape of love, using love to express their thoughts. With the economic prosperity and the improvement of people's living standards, people's creative direction has shifted from outdoor to boudoir, and from the world into the mood. These choices are no longer confined to the whispers of love between men and women of low class, but to give thoughts and give life in love. The literati are full of ambition but not valued. They can only express their affection in singing and dancing. It is inevitable that their works will be filled with indignation. Therefore, the theme of love shines and becomes the literati's ideological sustenance.

II. PLACING POLITICAL AMBITIONS IN LOVE POEMS

"Poems expressing wills" has always been an important principle in poetry creation. Ancient literati used their own delicate emotions to celebrate beautiful love when they wrote poems; the delicately carved poems permeated the poet's subtle emotions, some of which entrusted political thoughts, some entrusted with world-weary thoughts, and some simply expressed the

beauty of love; the hazy and delicate love poems afford for thought.

Qu Yuan's "Lisao" expresses his desire to reform politics with the experience of poets. In the whole poem, the psychological contradiction among the beauty, the wife and the husband is used to draw the central idea, and the relationship between the monarch and his subjects is implied by the affection between men and women. "I resent the ridiculousness of the emperor's heart, who can never understand my mind. Many women are jealous of my beautiful eyebrows and slandered me for loving to do lewd things. [1]" It is a typical sentence that expresses political sustenance through love. Zhu Xi said in "The Songs of Chu": "Lingxiu" (灵修) is the title of the ancient woman to her husband and "Haodang" (浩荡) means ridiculously absurd and sitting around; Qu Yuan used Lingxiu to address King Chuhuai, which meant that he resented King Chuhuai for being ridiculous all day long and unable to know Qu Yuan's mind. All women are jealous of my beauty, and they started a rumour that I'm lascivious and degrading. This seems to be a woman's daily complaint to her husband. Through this dissatisfaction, Qu Yuan expressed his expectations for King Chuhuai: Since integrity is suspected, and loyalty is slandered, how can there be no resentment? These two verses became the political sustenance of the poet. This kind of work with men's and women's sentiments to express political ideals adapted to the environment at that time and was in line with Chinese traditional

thinking. According to legend, during the West Zhou and Spring and Autumn Period, the yin-yang and five elements prevailed. In the concept of yin-yang and five elements, the king and the husband, the court and the wife are placed in the same position; the home is the smallest country, and the country is thousands of family; handling family affairs and state affairs have the same meaning. Perhaps this concept has affected Qu Yuan's creation.

A poet named Zhang Ji of the middle Tang Dynasty also wrote the love poems containing political sustenance. He lived in poverty in his early years and had a low official post, so he exposed to the lives of the lower classes. He was in the era of Daizong and Dezong. At that time, the imperial court was full of civil strife, the emperor was tyrannical and he forced to collect taxes and levies and flesh and blood of the people. In this context, he could better realize the difficult situation of people and political corruption, and the expectations of the monarch would emerge spontaneously, therefore, most of his poetry is to expose the political sustenance of real life.

In his work of "Jie Fu Yin Sending to Sikong Li Shidao", he wrote: "You knew that I already had a husband, but you still gave me a pair of pearls. I was grateful for your lingering affection and tied the pearl to my red blouse. The tall building of my house was connected to the royal garden, and my husband was on duty with the halberd in the palace. Although I knew you were sincere and unabashed, I had vowed to live and die with my husband. When I returned your twin pearls, I burst into tears. All I regret was not meeting you before I was married. In this poem, the poet wrote that a loyal woman received a pair of pearls, and the person who sent her the pearl clearly knew that she had a husband. She was grateful for this intention, and tied the pearl to her clothes. The woman said: "My high building is connected to the garden of the capital, and my husband is on duty in that palace. Although I know your sincerity for me, I have long vowed that my husband and I will share the troubles of life and death". The woman was in tears when giving the pearls back, and said that it was a pity that she didn't meet him before getting married. This political lyric poem begins with a condemned tone that Li Shidao clearly knows that I have a family and he still gives me pearls, which implies that this person has ulterior motives. Li Shidao, who was very powerful, was one of the feudal princes of the feudal towns during the middle period of Tang Dynasty. So he used the "two pearls" to draw the poet over to his side and entice the poet to be with him. The poet then wrote this "Jie Fu Yin" to reject his "good intention", showing the poet's immune to temptations and loyalty to the emperor.

III. EXPRESSING DESIRE TO BREAK THROUGH THE SHACKLES OF TRADITIONAL IDEAS BY MEANS OF WORDS' MEANING

A. Reflecting the depth of the literati's soul

In the vast literary works of ancient literature, there are numerous poems reflecting the inner heart of literati with the theme of love. Poets reflect the misery of their career through love, and also sing some true feelings through love. Most of the poems are based on the romantic relationship between men and women. On the one hand, the reason for the birth of poems is for entertainment. People who sing poems are mostly singsong girls; the male and female contact frequently, so a lyrical way is formed; on the other hand, in the Song Dynasty, the business was booming. With the population growth, the number of shops in the city continued to increase, people's living standards improved, and the song storeies and brothels also increased in large numbers. As a result, the love between men and women became bold. When Song Poems rose from the folk into the hands of literati, their content was not just a description of love, not just the erotic words of song storeies and brothels, but a mixture of life perceptions based on love.

Yan Jidao, a famous lyricist in the Northern Song Dynasty, wrote in his work "Immortal at the River", "I remember meeting with Xiaoping for the first time, she was wearing a fragrant longyi with double characters of heart. She flicked the pipa to pour out the feeling of love. The moon at that time was still there, reflecting her colorful cloud-like figure returning". Late at night, the poet dreamed of returning to the tower, but the door was locked; the poet awoke after drinking, and the curtain hung down, he remembered the scene where he first met with Xiaoping: At that time, Xiaoping wore longyi, flicking the pipa to tell her sadness and lovesickness. The moon then hung still above head, reflecting her colorful cloud-like figure returning". In "Xiao Shan Ci • Ziba", Xiaoping was a singsong girl. And most works of Yan Jidao contained his love and reminiscence about singsong girls. In Yan Jidao's work of "Po Zhen Zi • Playing and Singing in Courtyard Under Willow", the sentence of "Remembering those things when I was in brothels, I wrote letters in front of the red window under the moonlight" also described singsong girls. He used lyrical words to express his love for singsong girls. On the other hand, he also wanted to express the idea of breaking through marriage restrictions, boldly pursuing love, hoping freedom of love, and yearning for a better life.

B. Looking for love words' meaning to express the rough of life

At that time in Song Dynasty, it was popular to enjoy life and the economy was prosperous. The high

officials and noble lords always indulged in dissipation in entertainment; wine, music, singsong girls, and prostitutes were the beautiful life that the Song people pursued. Therefore, there are many gracious poetry in the Song Dynasty. Of course, there are also some literati here to express their thoughts. Most of Qin Guan's poems describe prostitutes and singsong girls. Because of their low social status, they were often excluded and laughed at by discrimination. Qin Guan used such a pitiful singsong girl as a metaphor for bad luck of his political career, and just like the sentence of "those who have the same misfortune sympathize with each other" [2], Qin Guan used their tragic fate to refer to his own fate. On the surface, his words are all about writing beautys and parting sadness and resentment, but behind this, he is talking about his tragic career. The poems are precious because thoughts are hidden inside, and there are obvious examples in his poems, such as "Treading On Grass", which is said to be written by Qin Guan to the woman he admires, and "Jiang Cheng Zi". In "Jiang Cheng Zi", he wrote, "The willows in the west city stay in the tenderness of spring, reminding me of the sadness at the time of parting, and my tears are hard to recover. I still remember when you tied the returned boat for me. The green field and the red bridge were the conditions of our parting. And now you are not there, only the water flows alone. A beautiful youth doesn't stop when it is a boy. When will the bitterness of parting end? When the catkins fluttered and the flowers were all over the floor, I climbed onto the tower. Even if the river water turn into my tears, they will never drain away, and there is still sorrow in my heart. The willow outside the west city seemed to stay in the soft spring, reminding the poet of the parting scene at that time. The poet's tears couldn't stop flowing, and he remembered the girl who had tied the returned boat for him. The green field and the red bridge of the parting scene appeared at the moment. There is a couple of lovers here, but the one poet missing now is not here. The water is flowing alone, and the good times can't last forever. The poet laments when this bitterness can end. With catkins in the sky and flowers falling all over the ground, and the poet ascend the tower. Even if the river turns into tears, the poet's heart is still full of sadness. Qin Guan recalled the scene of dating on the green field and red bridge through the description of a series of past scenes. His former feelings are as beautiful as spring, but nowadays, two party are separated, and passionate people are easily to be failed by ruthless ones. Qin Guan used this to compare to his own life path. His full of zeal was not valued, and his good times were gone; his age was declining, and in his best time, he was relegated endlessly by the court; his tears flowed like rivers that never ends, and the sadness in his heart never dissipated. Qin Guan's love poems are the perfect combination of the tragedy of love and the ups and downs of life. Some people always comment on the bold and straightforward words of Shaoyou

poems, and these poems are always interspersed with unfortunate fate. The literati used love as a coat to express the misery of his career. Qin Guan broke away from the flamboyance and vulgarity of vulgar poems, and incorporated the sadness and sorrow of his life into his poems, which more reflected his grief and indignation mood.

C. Relying on love poems to express the poets' being frustrated for all their talent

Liu Kezhuang is a famous poet in the Southern Song Dynasty in China, and he is a representative of the Xin School. His poetic style is bold and solemn and stirring. In the late Southern Song Dynasty, politics was decayed and dark, and the country decayed day by day. Liu Kezhuang cared about the country's fate but was never put in an important position, suffering from hit repeatedly. In an era of fierce party struggle, he also maintained his own true quality rather than associating with evil people. So he expressed his inner feelings by the singsong girls he loved, and wrote "Thoughts When Listening to Music on the Mat", in which he compared himself to the singsong girl. In the poem, he used just voice to compare to justice, and used the singsong girl's integrity to imply that he wouldn't associate with evil people. The poet described a low-down singsong girl, who was not a general singsong girl, but a low-down girl who was able to master all the poems of "Guo Feng"; he wanted to express that the singsong girl didn't learn nasty songs. What she learned to sing was gagaku. The poet did this in order to describe himself as an upright official who didn't associate with the traitor but was dedicated to the country. The poem depicts that the singer was preferred by the nobleman, and the nobleman invited her to play but she refused decisively, and a sharp contrast was then set up; the nobleman's warm invitation and the singsong girl's indifference refuse formed a sharp contrast, highlighting the character's upright personality and moral integrity and not admiring high position and great wealth. A series of detailed descriptions show people the upright character. Finally, he recorded that at the banquet accompanied by pretty girls, the singsong girls of nobleman's family were all sitting in gorgeous dresses, however, this singsong girl sang street songs on the gorgeous stage. From the last sentence, it can be seen that her singing didn't satisfy nobleman, so her unique personality was more vividly described: she was unwilling to grieve herself to cater to others, and she wouldn't make curtsies for the salary of five bushels of rice. The poets are all borrowing singsong girls to express their distinctive personality, hoping to be appreciated by the emperor, but the results are unsatisfactory. These poems describe the grief and sorrow of the poets who are not favored by the world, and their complex feelings of attachment and resentment towards the court. Through the record and description of the singsong girl

and nobleman, Liu Kezhuang let the reader clearly see his sorrow feelings of not being put in an important position, just as Wang Guowei said: "The evaluation of the quality of the poetry depends on the meaning it expresses, and can't be judged solely by the words used" [3].

IV. EXPRESSING SOLEMN THOUGHTS WITH FOLK DRAMAS

A. Dissatisfaction and resistance to feudal etiquette

In the popular folk dramas about love that dared to fight feudal forces during the feudal period in China, the three works of "Romance of the Western Chamber", "Peony Pavilion" and "Jiao Hong Ji" are the main representatives. Among them, Cui Yingying, Du Liniang, and Wang Jiaonian are the representative figures in the three dramas. Their love has certain similarities from their status and being suffocated, which all reflect the love story with the spirit of resistance under the suppression of feudal forces. In "Romance of the Western Chamber", Cui Yingying can be described as a sorrowful girl, and as a miss of premier, Cui Yingying fell in love with Zhang Sheng at first sight at her beautiful 19-year-old age. Cui Yingying's love for Zhang Sheng is not only fascinated by his appearance, but also regards him with special respect for his talent. As a miss of premier, Cui Yingying's family status can be described as very noble; she lived in a big family since childhood and was deeply influenced by cultural etiquette. When she saw Zhang Sheng, she should have had the restraint of girls from respectable families, and she should not have the slightest wave in heart. However, when she met Zhang Sheng, who was noble, dignified and handsome in the Buddhist temple, her love for him rose to a certain height, and she fell in love with her at first sight; she completely ignored her parents' choosing a good marriage for her and was caught in the lovesickness. But the two didn't have the chance to meet each other, and until Zhang Sheng rescued the besieged Cui Yingying at Pujiao Temple, the two were able to lift their veils and finally broke through the obstacles to get together. The love between Cui Yingying and Zhang Sheng is secret. The two didn't dare to love at first. Cui Yingying was afraid of the matchmaker sent by her mother, and was afraid of family's suppression and the identity constraints. Judging from Cui Yingying's initial reaction, the free love of Cui Yingying and Zhang Sheng was not accepted by feudal society. The love of the two was a crystallization of breaking through feudal thought; at the same time, it is also reflected by love that this is a kind of social and cultural progress in feudal society, and also represents the collision of new ideas with feudal society and the strong desire of the bottom market for free love. The unequal social status of Cui Yingying and Zhang Sheng represents different

classes, and under the influence of feudal ideas, marriage and love are all arranged by parents, and people at that time pursue perfect match. The free love of Cui Yingying and Zhang Sheng clearly broke through the concept of feudal thought, and they continued to work hard in pursuit of love, and they finally got together. In a spiritual sense, this is a kind of resistance and dissatisfaction of the city with feudal ideology and feudal dogma.

B. Sigh and helplessness in the impermanence of life

In *Zaju*, in terms of expressing the ideals of life, you can always see a lot of content that expresses the unsatisfactory life. Here, Guan Hanqing's "A Dream of Xi Shu" needs to be mentioned. In his work "A Dream of Xi Shu", Guan Hanqing, while reflecting folk psychology and social conduct, also focuses on expressing his own life and social ideals. In "A Dream of Xi Shu", its author, while sorting out historical materials, through his own construction, takes Liu Bei as the "Great Emperor of Shu" as the background. It was written in the play that the brothers Zhang Fei and Guan Yu, who sworn in the peach garden in those days, with their ghost of the wronged never taking a rest, rushed to Xi Shu with strong unwillingness, and appeared in Liu Bei and Zhang Fei's dream and made a request, and told them that they had been brutally killed; Zhang Fei and Guan Yu also told the two that they missed the original brotherhood, expressing their strong unwillingness and wanting to pay off old scores. Looking at the whole story, people couldn't help but sigh. When people thought about Zhang Fei and Guan Yu as Shu generals in the past, they made a magnificent appearance and they both had an awe-inspiring reputation. But today, they have become two innocent ghosts who were wrongly murdered. In the face of this, people can't help but sigh. On the other hand, under deep investigation, people can think of Guan Yu and Zhang Fei's bravery and dignity in their lifetime, helping the people of the world and benefiting the countless people; but when they die, they can't get anyone's rescue, which make people sigh with regret and think deeply of the vanishment of life. With the description of the two heroes of Zhang Fei and Guan Yu who were in distress, Guan Hanqing expressed his social ideals of daring to fight and disobeying the arrangement. While expressing the ecology of himself, this could not help triggering people's thinking about the disillusionment and impermanence in life as well. While people feel sad for what happened to Zhang Fei and Guan Yu in the play, they can also see the impermanence in the world. This is not only a reflection on human nature, but also a reflection on social ideology and culture. Guan Hanqing's ideals in life, as well as the disillusionment of life and impermanence of humanity people have seen through this drama, are worthy of deep consideration.

All in all, there are many excellent works praising love in the field of ancient Chinese poetry. The literati not only described love purely, but also expressed their inner thoughts with the help of the coat of love, which has rich connotations. The poems and dramas contain not only political thoughts but also expressions of personal feelings and the painful feelings of family life.

V. CONCLUSION

The ancient men of literature and writing described love through different genres such as poems and verses, which shows that the literati are full of sincere yearning for love. Although they are also about describing love, the ideological content contained in each is different. This paper discusses the ideas contained in the love genre from three aspects of poem, drama and verse. The tendency of ancient love poems to have political emotion has been studied by people all over the world, but the ideological connotations that different dynasties, different genres, and different techniques to be showed are very different. Among them, there are sigh about the ideals of life, expression about political ambitions, and those oppose the feudal ethics system. Different angles and multi-layered thoughts make the themes of love shine brilliantly, which are deeply loved by men of literature and writing. Therefore, the theme of love has become a way for literati to express their thoughts.

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