Main Schools and Its Viewpoint on Western Feminist Literary Criticism Tingting Zhang

Teaching and Research Institute of Foreign Languages, Bohai University, Jinzhou, 121013, China tingting810905@163.com

Keywords: western feminist literary criticism; main schools; viewpoint; Anglo-American school; French school

Abstract. Western feminist literary criticism is mainly divided into Anglo-American school and French school, which emphasizes on the criticism of the male centralism, not only pay attention to women's subjectivity, but also has its own characteristics. The Anglo-American is a critical view of women as the center, focus on social criticism, emphasize the cultural tradition of women themselves, try to establish a female literary model from the perspective of feminism, from the female's personal experience to rise to theoretical height; the French school is influenced by the post structuralism criticism theory, pay attention to the language criticism and psychological construction, pay attention to how to subvert and break the male power discourse, study the female view in writing, and the "female writing" is one of the most important theories. Through the comparative study of the two schools, find out the common ground and the difference, and provide reference for the development of Chinese feminist literary criticism.

Introduction

Literary criticism is a part of literature and art, is the research, analysis, and evaluation of the works and the literary phenomena of the author in accordance with certain standards. Literary criticism is based on literary appreciation, and it is the deepening and improvement of literary appreciation. Literary criticism is the most active, the most popular and the most common one in the study of literary theory. Western feminist literary criticism in the late 1960s and early 70's, the rise of the second wave of feminist movement, has been through the patriarchal society of the traditional resistance. Feminism originated from feminism, is a continuous development of feminism and."Feminism" represents the early women's struggle for equality between men and women struggle, "feminism" pays attention to the construction of "sex consciousness" and culture is from the perspective of cultural criticism, considering the twentieth Century criticism experience, developing their own criticism mode. Feminist criticism as one of the contemporary western literary theory, which plays an important role in the history of western literary criticism, has a huge impact.

The world feminist literary criticism mainly consist of the Anglo-American school and French school. The Anglo-American school pay more attention to social criticism, emphasize the cultural tradition of women themselves, try to set up the female literary mode from the perspective of feminism. The French School of feminist literary criticism is influenced by deconstruction, female writing language and text more attention, focus on "female writing", hope to establish a utopian literature shows its main representative difference of semiotics. No matter which school, the purpose is to reveal the history, culture, social discrimination against women, the fact that oppression, in order to resist the traditional, women's rights and interests of women's rights and interests. In the new century, the theory of the feminist literary criticism has become the contemporary literary criticism and theory of a force not to be underestimated represents a method of gender factor into literary theory, reveal the gender equality in today's society, the social reality has important significance.

Main Representative and Its Viewpoint of Anglo-American School

The Criticism View of women as the center is the mainstream of the Anglo American school. British and American feminist criticism focus on a living women, including their difficulties, pain,

practical experience, from the personal experience of women rose to a theoretical height. It is a criticism of "social history", which is based on the theory and method of female experience. The feminist criticism in the UK tends to be more inclined to the Marx doctrine, which emphasizes class and gender. And American feminist criticism can be subdivided into black American, Asian American, American foreign colored people, native American feminist criticism. The main representatives are: the United Kingdom of Woolf and Mary Jacobs Virginia, the United States of America's Millett Kate, Sandra Gilbert, GBA and Elaine Showalter et al [1-4].

- (1) Woolf Virginia, a British woman writer, literary critic, and literary theorist, the stream of consciousness literature is a representative of the literary critics, and has been hailed as a pioneer of modernism and feminism in twentieth Century. She takes a great historical vision and open mind, and carries on a series of deep thinking to the female literature, and gives the contemporary feminist criticism in many ways. Since the back of Apha Behn in eighteenth Century to as the representative of the women's long suffering rejection and forgetting the fact, and to their own personal experience that these female predecessors opened up the road of literature. It reflects the rebellion against the traditional male centered literary history, and clearly put forward the idea of "double sex". It is believed that "everyone has two power to control everything, a male power, a female power, the most suitable condition is that these two forces cooperate sincerely". This harmonious cooperation is an important guarantee for the success of literary creation. This view is also the center of a single male confrontation with the criticism of the standard in a certain extent; Study on women's writing often notice starting from their economic status, social experience, culture and thought in the patriarchal society, not only to women's life experience are closed, and the laws and customs also strictly limit women love life, this is the fundamental reason for the development of women's writing. This criticism of social criticism, not only criticize the oppression of the patriarchal society to women's creation, but also directly inspire contemporary feminist criticism in the methodology.
- (2) Kate Millett, was born in a middle-class family of the United States, professional literature, research from extreme chauvinist novels, is a leftist intellectuals, deeply influenced by Marx's influence, respected practice. Millett's doctoral dissertation "politics sexual" is one of the classic works in the development of feminist theory. The politics of "politics sexual" is not the usual parliamentary session, participation in elections, political parties and so on. It is a group of people who can be used to control the power structure of the other group. Although people have always been about freedom and independence, not to be swayed by others and control the political ideal, and in a variety of ways to achieve the ideal of effort. But whether in history or in reality, have failed to realize the political ideal, which rely on some kind of power to dominate other people and other groups in many phenomenon. Under the patriarchal society and the cultural background, male curry out full control to female, there is no difference between the nature and the race, the class, the control and the dominate of the class. If the relationship between race and class is a political relationship, the gender relationship is also a political relationship. From the history to the present, the relationship between the sexes is "a dominant and subordinate relationship", that is, men based on natural, biological sex can be obtained, and control and dominate women. Millett constructs a feminist reading method, which is based on the assumption that the reader's experience and the continuity of the female experience. She takes the female images in the literary works in an unexpected way, and tries to break the rules of the creation, reading and criticism in the center of the male. Millett's feminist criticism has determined the importance of reading the text again, understanding gender identity to the reproduction of female images, and has broken the authority and credibility of the traditional male writers in the literature.
- (3) Showalter Elaine, began to actively participate in the study of women's issues English from 1970s. Although feminist literary criticism has a tendency to reject the theory since its inception, Showalter has not been influenced by the traditional consciousness, but on the contrary, it has a path of theoretical construction. The whole theory of Showalter is not very mature at beginning, but it has a change process. As an outstanding representative of the British and American feminist criticism, Showalter has published a number of important feminist literature, established a new feminist criticism, and made a great contribution to the development of Western feminist criticism.

The history of the development of feminism criticism in the United States, Showalter played a role, its great value theory is self-evident. In the case of feminist criticism and exclusion theory, Showalter has the courage to come out of the framework of the theory of building a theory, embodies an academic perspective. In her theory dawdled opened up a new way for American feminist criticism. The feminist criticism and feminist criticism, so that critics and readers to see the long neglected women themselves, contribute to the construction of female consciousness, breaking the pattern of feminist criticism only "break" not "set" the tradition. In addition, it is worth mentioning that, along with the development of feminist criticism, Showalter has been developing and improving their theory, making her theory to keep the vitality of the inexhaustible. Showalter's feminist criticism theory, as the whole feminist criticism, from the women's own literature found the history of female literature, and then in the wilderness of the theory to feminist criticism, theoretical research is gradually mature, attention to the neglect of the racial class, and then continue to be added.

Main Representative and Its Viewpoint of French School

The criticism of French feminism is influenced by the theory of post structuralism criticism, it focuses on language criticism and psychological construction, it focuses on how to subvert and break the male power discourse, the study of the female concept reflected in the writing, "female writing" is one of the most important theory. The core of the French feminist theory is in three aspects: the establishment of gender equality in the literature, the deconstruction of the male center, the creation of female reading and writing system. The main representative of the French school: French's Simon Dpovova, Ruth Irigaray, Julia Chris Diva, Elena Ceausescu and Norway's Tao Li Maui et al [5-9].

- (1) Simon Dpovova believes that the growing process of women is the process of social ideas and customs regulations, bound, women from birth will be agreed on how to dress, how to dress, how to interact with others, women's natural instincts is to suppress the formation of female role under male discourse, narrowly confined to the family social world and in the family. Society's ideas and thoughts that are imposed on women, which in turn urge women to adapt themselves to the value orientation of the society which is based on the requirements of the male society. At the same time, the patriarchal society deprived of economic status and the right to speak of women, so that women have to rely on men to survive their men to adapt to all tastes and habits, and it became the object of appreciation of men, give up as independent people, thus becoming the second attachment to men there. The root cause of this kind of result is not gender difference but the "positive worship" and the culture of male center.
- (2) Elena Ceausescu, one of the most influential contemporary French novelist, dramatist and literary theorist. In France and the United States and other countries, she is known for many experimental and pioneer theory. She is not only the creator of the "female writing" theory, and the theory of practitioners, she creates a women's way of thinking. Her thinking mode is not only accurate and close, but also has the profound intellectual atmosphere, but also has the distinct individual color, ponder over the gender difference, the philosophy and the literature and so on question has the creation significance. The theory of gender differences in Ceausescu Freud's psychological analysis as the object of criticism, emphasizing the important role played by physiological gender differences in the choice of social mechanism, because in the patriarchal system, women's sexual repression and exclusion. Ceausescu's work is to explore the relationship between politics and writing in general, the dimension of gender difference, the possible interaction between philosophy and literature, and the rationality of the identity based on the political differences. Ceausescu's creation is the practice of his theory and literary criticism. Although the early creation does not conform to the standard of female writing, it is the basis for the later creation. In the middle of the drama creation, from the early to the development of the personal experience to the history of the statement. The recent creation of the history of the statement and the combination of psychological inquiry. Ceausescu through writing, creat a relatively independent space in the field of thought, and as a stepping stone to gradually move towards the realm of freedom Ceausescu

does not deny that she borrowed a man's language, because she had no choice but to borrow the language she wanted to destroy.

(3) The theory of Ruth Irigaray involves in the field of philosophy, psychoanalysis and linguistics, always concern about gender differences, explore the possibility of "woman" and the no possibility, is also an important contribution to feminist literary theory. Irigaray believes that there is only one gender in society, and that women are just another form of man, and therefore, should establish a "female pedigree". She puts the female lineages back to the pre Oedipus phase, that is the mother is no gender difference, at the same time is a male creativity and maternal androgynous image, the mother and daughter relationship has always been a major theme in the works of Irigaray, she cares about is one of the central problem of how to break the image of mother by the definition of the male, more conducive to the establishment of women to obtain self identity of the mother pedigree."Woman" is a kind of non-rational female discourse that is relative to the rational language of men. Irigaray believes that if forced to use the male language, women will lose themselves, so that her experience has become fragmented, the use of this language will not make women become complete, it will not make women to have the right, but will make women more close to their own. She advocates the establishment of two main body to respect the differences between the two sexes culture, love each other but not with each other and thus not lose themselves. If the woman are contracted for the man or inferior men, so that any woman has lost the self identity foundation, all the pursuit of feminist will vanish like soap bubbles.

Comparative Study on Anglo-American School and French School

Through the two school representatives and their main points of view, the main conclusions of the study include the following three aspects [10,11]:

- (1) Anglo-American schools pay more attention to the summary of experience from the practice, and then promote to the theoretical level, which is consistent with their social criticism. Since the Anglo American school is engaged in research activities from the "experience", it is the key point of the British and American School of feminist literary criticism, which is not to take the abstract path, but also to take the abstract way. French feminist literary criticism focuses on the theory of rhetoric, the path is abstract and speculative from top to down. The French school conclude after the analysis of the status of women's discourse of Western Theory: all patriarchy, including language and capitalism, only the expression of a sex, it's all male libido projection mechanism. The woman is absent and silent in the patriarchal system. The French School make a thorough criticism of the father of the two yuan of the right. In short, the establishment of the theory of French feminist literary critics is the world's attention. They at this level and male authority theory of confrontation, show their courage, also force the existence and importance of literary creation and aesthetic research must address feminist criticism.
- (2) The establishment of a symbolic order of their own to get rid of the control of male discourse, Anglo-American school stress the transformation of the existing language, and even threat to use the new language system of the center of the female to replace the male center of the old language system. The French school is good at using the method of separation of deconstruction, perpetrating a male centered language system. They think that there is no gender difference in language itself, a text in this context that the meaning, in another context, the expression of that meaning, can be seen in the isolated text is not the exact meaning, all meaning is determined by context. They no longer regard language as a single structure, but the study language from the structural analysis to the process of analysis, namely, the analysis of complex meaning process, the relationship between language and ideology, political and spiritual analysis, language and social, spiritual and other text. Thus, the French school is sent to the aesthetic more rational and mature. In a word, how to break the patriarchal gender division of the dead, is always the central problem of feminist concern in the writing. Moreover, in order to cure women's aphasia, feminist advocate of women's language and literary texts.
- (3) In Anglo American school, the American feminist criticism has more college features, but the UK pays more attention to the mass culture, which emphasizes the connection between gender and

class, and has a strong political color. Although the views of the representatives of the British women's beauty are different, and they are all devoted to the exploration and collation of female literature, we expect to establish an independent female literary history. The French school is more from the psychoanalytic theory and deconstruction theory, with particular attention to women's writing and text, focusing on questions about language symbol system, and put forward the "female writing" in language and syntactic damage narrative tradition. This kind of "feminine writing" can both come from the female hand, also can come from the male, in the destruction of the natural language to show the powerful. In theory, the French feminist criticism has taken a radical attitude, but they are the language of the study object and subversive force, obviously there will be women's liberation of social struggle of psychological, physiological and language of the tendency, it is less rich practical spirit to Anglo American school.

Conclusion

Gender differences run through in the development of human society. Feminist theory is closely relating to the history of women, feminist literary criticism has been produced in women's reflection on their own historical existence and daily life. Western feminist literary criticism has a great influence on Chinese contemporary female literature. Influenced by the Anglo American school, Chinese literary world divides the female literature which distinguishes male literature, the gender consciousness awakening, female writers begin to have a sense of the asexual of literature, the spirit of women's self empowerment has begun to show. In conclusion, feminism is a women centered criticism, the research objects include the image of women, female writing and female reading, is a new interpretation of the literary works in a feminine vision, criticize efforts to distort the image of women in the male writers; try to find the female literary tradition different from male, heavy review of the history of literature; literature study of female consciousness in writing, and expression study of female special attention, women writers; denounce male centered traditional culture on the creation of women oppression, advocate a feminist writing method, play an important role in literary theory and literary history.

Acknowledgement

This work is supported by social science fund project of Liaoning province (L15CWW001): Western Feminist Literary Criticism and Its Influence on Chinese Female Writing.

References

- [1] F. Gao, "Construction of Female Consciousness: Some Comments on Elaine Showalter Who is the Founder of American Feminist Criticism Theory," Journal of Eastern Liaoning University (Social Sciences), vol. 14, no. 6, pp. 68-71, 2012.
- [2] D. Wu, J. X. Xue, "The construction of resistance reading and female criticism: Kate Millett's 'sex politics'," Collection of Women's Studies, vol. 12, no. 3, pp. 67-72, 2003.
- [3] Baidu library, "Feminist criticism," http://wenku.baidu.com/link?url=Uv78zh3oUkTmR2Mai6m4aYJh9UA7-ZbczjFRIRm6IFNGP ZfGCFzC2duSPxqTUOsoAPOehCpoEOmeDAMOuPI66PEng0PE6KwLYmsK3p7BwmG, 2015-11-13.
- [4] L. D. Wu, "Discussion on the relationship between the sexes: on Kate Millett's "sexual politics"," Journal of the Staff and Worker's University, vol. 22, no. 1, pp. 59-61, 2010.
- [5] Y. Y. Guo, "Restricted View about Elena Ceausescu," Journal of Educational Institute of Jilin Province, vol. 23, no. 6, pp. 68-70, 2007.

- [6] M. M. Zhang, "The Dimension of Female Subjectivity Construction in Luce Irigaray," Foreign Literatures, vol. 29, no. 2, pp. 11-18, 2009.
- [7] W. X. Wen, "Feminine theory on Luce Irigaray," Literature & Art Studies, vol. 33, no. 3, pp. 38-44, 2012.
- [8] Baidu Encyclopedia, "Sexual politics," http://baike.baidu.com/link?url=yyATtnH9xZILYBqnUiHvhbJFft9lZhjnDKX3XSARJ4f_xnqb 0WMdi0_XCtZ1EspMmWemyIWEHIkY97xlZucpla, 2015-11-12.
- [9] Y. Bai, "A Review on Elena Ceausescu's 'Body Writing' Theory," Journal of Language and Literature Studies, vol. 33, no. 5, pp. 82-83, 2013.
- [10] L. Li, "A comparison between the twentieth Century sixty or seventy's and the French feminist literary criticism," Times literature, vol. 4, no. 9, pp. 140-141, 2010.
- [11] C. P. Zang, "Study on literary criticism of western feminism," Master's degree of Zhengzhou University, 2002.