

Research on American Feminist Literary Criticism

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Abstract. American feminist literary criticism is an important branch of Western feminist literary criticism, has experienced female image criticism, Women's Center criticism, black feminist literary criticism and multicultural identity criticism stage, respect for differences and on the basis of personality toward integration, continuous improve its unique theory, to enrich the perspective of literary criticism. In this paper, the basic concepts definition of literary criticism and the American feminism representatives and major works for the foundation, it focuses on the implications of American feminist literary criticism. Selectively absorbing the experience of American feminist literary criticism, and transformative accepted according to the needs, and according to the needs of the transformation of acceptance, the combination of local characteristics to develop feminist literary criticism with Chinese characteristics has an important role.

Introduction

Gender differences, which are the phenomenon, get through the whole social development history of human. Feminist theory has always been closely linked with women's history, feminist literary criticism produced in the presence of female on their own history and the reflection daily life. With the development of society, the male has experienced a tremendous baptism of self-affirmation, while women quit social production led to the decline of social status of women. Female, as a repressed population, has a kind of non biological but the homogeneity of the social significance. Whether in the classical, Christian, or Germanic and Confucian civilizations, women are lower than men's inferior citizens. Feminist literary criticism is the rise in the late 1960s, is primarily a political literary criticism, and is a product of the feminist movement that goes deep into the cultural field, especially deep into the field of literature. Its formation is not only the social and political background at that time, and there are sources of literary theory and criticism. Western Feminist Literary Criticism extensive renovation and absorb the new Marxism, psychoanalysis, structuralism, new historicism and other critics ideas and methods.

World feminist literary criticism mainly includes Anglo-American School and the French School. Anglo-American school focus on social criticism, emphasizing women's own cultural tradition, try to establish a female literary mode from the perspective of feminism, and pay more attention to the reality, from the personal experience of women to rise to the level of theory, to women as the central criticism view is the mainstream of the Anglo American school. French school of feminist literary criticism due to the impact of deconstruction, more attention to female writing language and text, focusing on "female writing", in the hope of establishing a kind of literary Utopia semiotics which is the main representative of the difference. American feminist literary criticism is a major force in the Anglo-American School. American feminist values history, emphasizes the fact, through the analysis of the social history of literary works, to expose the historical facts of the oppression of women and to pay attention to the relationship between the internal and external. American feminist literary criticism is affecting the most one of extensive, the most dynamic theory, to overthrow the traditional has consistently advocated the objectivity and universality of the point of view of criticism, to reassess the history experience and values, to re understand the social value of women [1].

Basic Concept Definition

This paper covers the following basic concepts:

(1) Literary criticism. Literary criticism is an important part of literary activities, according to certain standards to study, analysis, understanding and evaluation for writers, their works and literary phenomenon. Literary Criticism by analysis and commentary on literary works, both influenced literature understanding of writers and development of literature creation, but also influence the literature appreciation of readers and development of the social function of literature. Excellent literary criticism not only on contemporary individual writers play support, encouragement and guidance, but also have a significant impact on the creative thinking and the artistic tendencies of contemporary writers groups, and even change a generation of literary fashion.

(2) Female literature. Female literature is the gender consciousness with the female, and the use of the women's language and cultural to create, the content of the performance is related to the unique experience and feeling of female life, the text shows the works of the unique qualities of women discourse and life force. View of female literature is an open and developing system. Female literary fully express the unique feminine charm and strange ideas, and perfect the essence of humanity itself, to show the various stages of female roles, dig out the deepest monologue of soul. Can clearly feel those cries, those anxious, those frivolous, those strong, experience the women's unique belief concept.

(3) Female writing. Female writing is a revolt and subversion based on the male-dominated social value system, women by describing the body to write on their own history. That is, the female writing is a female author writing a true description of their physical, emotional and consciousness to subvert or ridicule patriarchal society defined women [2]. Female writing is a way of women's self-definition, and so far the only effective way. With the unique experience of life, a unique perspective and highly personalized narrative language, the creation of a number of intriguing female theme works.

(4) Feminist literary criticism. Feminist literary criticism is a kind of female centered criticism. Have two meanings: First, have purely textual criticism senses that text through specific studies reveals the gender discrimination and female consciousness which implies; the second is the significance of having a social criticism, namely through the text content research, criticism unequal social reality. The catalytic product of feminist literature is Western women's liberation movement, there are inextricably linked between the two. The late 1960s, swept Europe's second feminist movement, directly led to the feminist literary criticism.

Representative Figures and Their Major Works

The author and works of American feminist literary criticism is many, the following lists four representative figures and their works view.

Ellen Moers, representative work is "Literary Women". The main contents are: concentrated study in the Romantic literary movement since Britain, the United States, France and other countries in literature "great woman writer", in the Western literary tradition, the important and not so important female writers gathered together. Through the description of the history of women's writing and their occurred repeatedly in the creation of themes, images and writing style and the discovery of this history is the main literary tradition of men advancing side by side, or in a strong undercurrent beneath this tradition. For female writers, it has been replaced by a close and cross-mixed reading that has been replaced by a simple way of absorbing nutrition from the achievement of male literature. This book is a great emphasis on the individual circumstances and biographies, and provides a large number of women writers of the story outline. For the study of female literary history, it is a good guide book. Although, the writer's choice and the discussion of its lack of rational, but as a pioneering work, but also for the later research works of mature feminist literary history has laid a good foundation.

SandraM Gilbert, representative work is "The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth - Century Literary Imagination" [3]. Known as the 20th century feminist literary criticism of the "Bible", it is contemporary American literary classic. Breaking the ethnic, geographical and political boundaries, the British and American women's literature of the 19th century as a whole conducted a comprehensive study on the relationship between gender and literature for a new interpretation. In a patriarchal society and traditional literature, writing essentially be regarded as a male, it is an extension of the male reproductive behavior. This culture gives male writers with authority, giving them to create, control and possess power. Both from the physiological point of view and from a social point of view, women are not likely to engage in writing. Women writers feel strongly troubled about the qualification and ability to create their own art, and they have a deep anxiety about the legitimacy of the writer. On the basis of "the influence of anxiety", this kind of distress and anxiety summed up as "anxiety of authorship". The timidity of self-expression, fear of male authority on the art, on the creation of female of inappropriate anxiety and so on, interwoven together, formed a kind of inferiority complex. This complex has become a symbol of the struggle for women writers to define themselves in art.

Kate Millet, representative work is "Sexual Politics". Although people have always been about freedom and independence, free from political domination and control over others, and also a variety of ways to make every effort to achieve this ideal. Unfortunately, both in history and in reality, but had failed to realize the political ideals that rely on some kind of power over other people and other groups of phenomena often abound. In the patriarchal social and cultural backgrounds, the implementation of a comprehensive control and domination from male to female, this is no different from race, class, class between the control and domination in nature. If race relations and class relations is a political relationship, gender relations is also a political relationship. From history to the present, the relationship between the two sexes is "a dominant and subordinate relationships", that man based on natural, biological sex can get privilege, and thus to control and dominate women. In an unexpected perspective to think about female images in literary works, from the perspective of gender differences, by deconstructing the way, trying to break the norms for creation, reading and criticism of the man as the center, to woman's unique life experiences, aesthetic experience and critical perspective on work to read and analyze. Millett's feminist critical practice identified by rereading the text, a new awareness of gender identity on the reproduction of female image importance, to break the traditional male writers reproduced the authority and credibility of female image in literature.

Mary Ellmann, representative work is "Thinking About Women". All levels of Western culture is full of a kind of "thought by sexual analogy" thinking habits, since people are accustomed to male or female characteristic of human behavior and social phenomena such as classification, of course, including literature. From the women images under the pen of the male writers and the women works from the pen of male critics, be summarized ten female pattern: invisible, passive, unstable, closed, chastity, materiality, spirituality, irrational, compliance. Two kinds of images are difficult to change, "shrew and witches". These modes fully demonstrated the phallus criticism thinking habits of gender analogy, and this habit has caused unreal performance of female image. While the impact of this book is less than Millett "sexual politics", however, as after the "sexual politics" was published, people have actually come to refocus from the same book. This "Thinking About Women" also female criticize the important works for male works by distortion of the female image, it is one of the important literary problem in the research of this field.

The Enlightenment of American Feminist Literary Criticism

By studying the above-related issues, the Enlightenment of American feminist literary criticism is as follows: [4-7]:

(1) A single "gender" perspective does not exist, dedicated to the method of female literary criticism is not, it is a multifaceted, interdisciplinary "Gender Poetics". "Gender Poetics" to gender value orientation as a basic element of analysis, social gender as an important part of social identity, gender difference as the basic coordinate of literary studies, and gender factors of literature and art

to do analysis and research at level of poetics, study authors, works and the recipient of the complexity of gender roles, explore the cross and contradictions by gender, race, class, age and economic factors forged such as gender roles and identity, excavate the special spiritual connotation of men and women, and the way of aesthetic expression of literature, and attempts to explain the causes of generation, highlighting the sex and gender equality value of literature. Construction of gender poetics reflects inclusive, ambiguity and ductility of literary theory. "Gender" shall mean a person's biological gender-related cultural links, is composed of a series of social construction, deconstruction and reconstruction relationship. This necessarily requires that men and women are placed in a broader cultural context to understand. Gender poetics includes the issues of various disciplines related to gender experience, which can accept the various outcomes of expanding interdisciplinary exploration.

(2) American feminist literary criticism, for the study of Chinese feminist literature and criticism provides a new perspective, useful in promoting the localization process of Chinese feminist studies. Chinese women also face questions about the relationship between the nation and female identity. Chinese women with women compatriots, like other third world countries, have been forced to sacrifice for nationalism and patriotism for many times, to give up their demands and interests. Whenever there is a political crisis, they would no longer be a woman; when the crisis is over and the occasion of cultural reconstruction, they resumed the more traditional role of wife and mother, together committed to restoring order. Although life experiences, cultural backgrounds and historical traditions are differences, however, the Chinese feminist can be influenced by the change of Western women's fate and the development of Western women's literature and criticism. Because based on the different soils, China's feminism should not simply agree with Western feminism, and should learn from the experience of Western feminist literary criticism, and the beneficial ingredients of Western feminist theory "take over", to gradually establish and improve their own literary criticism and research.

(3) In the new century, on information technology and gender, especially the study of computer games, online literature and gender relations, has gradually become a new field of feminist criticism and gender studies. Internet has shortened the distance between the geographic and economic activities, to rapid economic way to spread the technology and culture, affecting people's lives. Network space to study gender issues has brought new opportunities and challenges. Criticizing or complaining, a woman's voice is the most powerful. Feminist of Internet age mainly manifested in three aspects: First, the dissatisfaction of male centered phenomenon in the field of the information technology; the second is for computer games and Internet pornography gender critique; Third, the use of cyberspace or computer art performance feminist. Cyberspace fights not only the power of the technical elite and individuals, politicians and technical experts contest technologies, but also in the power struggle between men and women. Many feminist critics have pointed out, the arrival of electronic technology and network era, did not make a fundamental liberation for women. Traditional cultural knowledge, "the male equivalent to the technology", women are not only in the traditional areas of technology and engineering difficulties, in the use of information technology has also been male depression. Sex discrimination in the field of information technology is also reflected in the content of computer games or game sites aspects, and network culture is still dominated by male. This is not as described by some experts, by avoiding face to face communication situations, and the information world is a democratic place where citizens of the world can be made at equal interaction, there is no difference in gender, race and class. It is caused due to network anonymous, and gender discrimination in online communication is more reckless. Thus feminist criticism is very concerned about political cyberspace, especially the influence of gender politics on women.

(4) Since the old ideas still suppress the thinking of female writers, bondage and influence of traditional male discourse, so Chinese female literature to achieve a major breakthrough, to accept with subverting the patriarchal discourse meaning of the Western feminist literary theory is particularly important. Reforming and opening brings the ideological emancipation, further boosting social participation and the sense of competition from Chinese women, but also so that

they begin to history, reality and their own problems began a profound reflection, accelerated the resistance of traditional concept of patriarchy and to the question of feudal ethics and morals. Although there is no vigorous feminist movement in the background, there is no radical pioneer slogan by West Feminist Literary Theory proposed, Chinese feminist literature in the new reclamation of virgin land toil, and profoundly deconstructs the traditional male centered discourse, and become the central issue of women's liberation in the new period. Women living environment is full of contradictions and opposition, not only from the cultural traditions of patriarchal society, a woman is more difficult to realize their own physical and psychological double bind, true female self consciousness was not only against the unfair fate and obey your true heart calling.

Conclusion

Produced in the 1960s, American feminist literary criticism, deconstruction thoughts with time, and the American women's liberation movement, has a profound relationship with each other. From the analysis of patriarchal culture, criticism male writers create a false image of women, to excavate the buried female writers and their works, and then to rebuild female literary history and critical theory system, and finally to black feminist cultural criticism appears, and thinking and critical of ethnic individuals and group identity issue, American feminist literary criticism through the development process for half a century. Literary critics have used a variety of critical theory, including such as deconstruction and post-colonialism, and so on. To improve the theoretical basis of female literary criticism, for other critical theory found a new development point, feminist literary criticism can always with its theory construction keep consistent pace, its theory building process along with literary criticism emerging new development [8]. Feminist literary criticism spread in China, the development process, has experienced from rejection to acceptance, the tortuous course of localization and discipline, in the process from the surface, the feminist literary criticism not only won the other criticism methods with the same position, and from the edge position moved to the center. In fact, any kind of culture for receiving foreign theories have a choice, always select the current needs, and according to the needs of the transformation to accept [9]. Feminist literary criticism in China's experience also proved this point. The research results of this paper have an important role in the promotion, reference and application in China.

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