

A Study on the Narrative of William Faulkner's Novels

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Abstract. William Faulkner, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1949, is one of the most creative and influential writers in the history of American literature. He is also the representative of American stream-of-consciousness literature schools. His novels have rich local characteristics and unique artistic style. In this paper, based on the author's study and practical experience, the narrative skills of his novels were elaborated from the aspects of Faulkner and "the moment", Faulkner and "personal privacy", and Faulkner and "time".

Introduction

The artistic achievements of Faulkner's short stories are issues, which are worthy of analyzing and summarizing. For quite a long time, many critics argued that Faulkner was good at writing novels, and weak in writing short stories. However, Faulkner's attitude towards the short stories was rigorous. He believed that the short stories were demanding on genres, and its artistic height was second only to the poetry. His more than one hundred short stories show the deep imprint of his personal life, the personality charm, a strong sense of intense intuition, and ideological and artistic spirituality. The southern America in Faulkner's era is in a profound historical transformation. Faulkner explores and reveals in depth the moral issues of the changing era, discovers and criticizes the ugliness of human beings and the stupidity and despicableness of the social behavior and life behavior, and then manifests the pursuit of the ideal social morality system. Faulkner presented his spiritual and artistic personality via his spirituality and sincerity. In terms of short stories, the short length and flexible structure make the writer's ideological personality and art be more fully reflected.

Faulkner and "the moment"

Faulkner's works solidify the countless "moment", and maintain the character of life. The unity of "static" and "movement" reflects the conflict and integration of the reality and history. He records the "very important" dynamic feeling in "unimportant" life: confused, painful, tangled, frustrated and contradictory. Because our life is not isolated, and intertwined with other's life, everyone is struggling in this complex situation. Life is not our own single-handedly directed comedy, but numerous complicated "moment".

Faulkner's novels do not arrange the plot according to the traditional linear chronological order. "Heavy life and mysterious human nature fundamentally reject the straightforward one-dimensional speech." He knows that this is not the essential characteristics of life. The essential features of life is

the ongoing "moment" which cannot see its end and meaning, and the tumble again and again due to the future uncertainty. Faulkner's novels faithfully record the confusion, and the pain, wailing and entanglement due to the invisible prospect, outlet and brightness, which perhaps is from the missing love and value in life, the missing definite racial identity, or the confusion for love. Faulkner's novels record the pain of the protagonist in the real life who is not able to arrange the time, feels confused for the missing future direction, and always looks for the outlet. Faulkner's novel is not a copy of Faulkner's real world, but he is able to convey the pain in his novels which results from the countless unprepared "moment" encountered in his life. Therefore, the protagonists in the novels, like Faulkner, are confused and wandering, who have missed the direction but are looking for the direction.

Faulkner and "Personal Privacy"

As early as 1946, Marco Cowley wrote the pocket version of Faulkner's preface, who had sought for Faulkner's advice whether to write his life and experience into the preface. Faulkner was firmly opposed, and stated "my life and pictures must not appear in the preface. I just expect the people to know I wrote the book and then died". It can be seen that Kerner attaches much importance to his privacy. Fighting for his own privacy is his life's efforts. He said early that "my life is not important", so he has been opposed to be studied.

After Faulkner won the Nobel Prize in Literature, the life magazine editor Rob Tekulang came to Oxford to interview Faulkner, and Faulkner was very reluctant to accept. Soon Kulanger made his interview with Faulkner and Faulkner relatives as "Faulkner's private life." Faulkner was very angry with this behavior, and said "the Swede gave me the Nobel Prize, the French gave me the honors, and my compatriot ignored my repeated protests and requests to tap my privacy." Life has a certain relationship with the work. However, life is not works, and works are not life. Life provides material for works, and works provide escape and reflection palace for life. It is countless painful "moment" that becomes the source of Faulkner's creation. Faulkner's works, relative to his life, are really meaningful things, and also the things that the readers should really care about. Faulkner's greatness is that he makes the innumerable "meaningless moment" be solidified into "meaningful" works.

Faulkner and "Time"

To understand the unique timeline of Faulkner's novels, it is important to understand how Faulkner's life is scheduled. Faulkner is not good at arranging time. He always tumbles in time. For him, time is like uncontrollable unpredictable air. Whether at the macro or micro level, the biggest feature of his life is that he cannot grasp the time and opportunity, and falls again and again. The first tumble in his life is his first love. Due to the opposition of Ezel's parents, the proposal was rejected. They decided to elope, but he hesitated. Ezel married to wealthy Franklin who had a certain social status. Faulkner's pain had no place to vent, He wanted to go to the army, and made contributions on the battlefield to comfort the trauma. However, when he was still in training test, the war was over. After that, he fell in love with another girl Helen. At that time, his first love divorced, and wanted to marry him with two children. He was controlled by the fate, and married his first love. Short-term marriage shadow was brought to Faulkner's marriage. The two originally loved people were combined once again. Each had been deeply hurt. Marriage became a cage. Faulkner spent the rest of his life to escape, and ultimately did not escape. Faulkner's brother Dean loved flying. Faulkner sold his plane at a very low price to him. It was not expected that the plane crashed, which made Faulkner regret all his life, and feel that he should be blamed.

The macro level is still the same. He lived in a south downfallen aristocratic family, and was enveloped by the failure shadow after the civil war. He himself was caught in racial issues. Under the era tide, the individuals were like duckweeds, and beat by the waves, who were difficult to hold their own standpoints. He had been opposed to the south racism, and wrote several times to Harper magazine. He stated that the whites tried to prevent the development of the blacks because the whites

were afraid of competing with the blacks, and feared the loss of the whites' social and economic status and order in the process of competition. He believed that currently in any place in the world, if the equality was opposed due to the race and color, it was like that Alaska opposed the cute snow. However, he stated in the "Journalist" magazine that "If the war really break out again, I would like to fight again for Mississippi. Even though it means that I have to go to the street to shoot the blacks, I still have to say that the south is wrong, and their position is untenable."

Faulkner and "Novels", and Unique Narrative Techniques

After understanding the above three points, we can easily understand the reflection of Faulkner's life in his novels. Although some of his novels have similarities with his life such as the pain of the children without kinship, the confusion of love and racial issues, Winstler argued that the main relationship between Faulkner's life and his novels is manifested in the influence on his novels' form, which mainly can be summarized as the following two points.

First, temporal mess. The unique time arrangement is one of the most typical features of Faulkner's novels. In Faulkner's work "The Sound and the Fury", the transformation of time and scene has no marks, which entirely arranges the plot and narrative in accordance with a concept of inner time and space. "The individuals always live in the discontinuous time." Winstler argued that the most important factor resulting in this narrative style is Faulkner's life. Faulkner is never a man who can arrange time, and always tumbles in time. Therefore, for him, time is like the uncontrollable and unpredictable air. He does not seem to be always ready to play the role of life, and arrange the time of life. For him, life is "countless unprepared moment".

Second, the inner monologue skills. Faulkner is a very conservative and taciturn man who does not like expressing his true feelings. Since the childhood, the impression of the little brother and sister to him is "responsibility, loving order, but unapproachableness". His feature of making himself tightly wrapped up is embodied in his focus on the privacy, which has influenced his early works. "Marble Faun" is more like the stack of the words, and does not express the real feelings, which is difficult to really move the readers. After that, Faulkner realized that in order to impress the readers, he must break through his excessively strong heart "self-protection". The characters' inner monologue is the best way to show the true self. Thus, in the "The Sound and the Fury" and "As I Lay Dying", the use of inner monologue techniques shows that Faulkner tries to break unapproachableness attitude, and pours out all the psychological trauma suffered since the childhood without the time interval and transformation. Faulkner apparently found a deep pain and strength that could faithfully record "living in the present". The writing of the "inner monologue" completely ignores the transformation of time and space, and takes no account of whether the sentence is correct. Besides, there are no clear punctuation and no pause. These words are not to convey a story, but to be poured directly into the reader's heart with an irresistible force.

Summary

Faulkner is worthy of a representative writer. He not only gave the narrative of the novels a profound connotation, but also made it have a unique charm, which generated a unique artistic effect. Faulkner used these unique words to condense these pains into meaningful words, and turned the "useless" life into "useful" literary wealth. Life became the source of Faulkner's creation. Individuals in Faulkner's novels live forever in discontinuous time, and the inner monologue ignores the space transformation. Meanwhile, his novels are filled with the racial segregation scandal and half-blooded spells.

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