

Research and Development of Ecocriticism in China

Haiou Pan

College of Foreign Languages, Liaoning University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Shenyang, 110847,
China

30662238@qq.com

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Abstract: Under the guidance of ecologicalism, ecocriticism explores the relationship between literature and nature, and reveals the ideological and cultural roots of ecocriticism reflected in literary works. The vigorous development of ecocriticism in China is not only the inevitability of literary and artistic research, but also the deterioration of the environment. This paper analyzes the Chinese ecocriticism with the guidance of the theories of land ethics, ecofeminism, postcolonial ecocriticism and human ecology. The representative figures illustrate the characteristics of Chinese ecocriticism, study the main achievements of Chinese ecocriticism, and point out the problems of Chinese ecocriticism. The research results of this paper are of great practical significance for promoting the creation of Chinese literature, the renewal of aesthetic values, the reconstruction of critical discourse, and even the environmental protection movement.

1. Introduction

Ecocriticism is a theory of literary criticism that emerged in the 1970s. In the book "The Drama of Survival: A Study of Literary Ecology" published in the early 1970s, American scholar Joseph Mickel proposed the term "Literary Ecology", arguing that the literature should reveal the relationship between humans and other species. The relationship must be carefully and sincerely examined and explored the impact of literature on human behavior and the natural environment. In 1978, William Ruckert published an article in the "Lowa Review", "Literature and Ecology: An Experiment on Ecological Criticism," for the first time using the concept of "Ecocriticism", arguing that ecology and the concept of ecology is applied to literary studies. Ecocriticism is a combination of contemporary ecological thoughts and literary studies. It is the greenization of literary research and a comprehensive response to ecocriticism. It matured in the mid-1990s and rapidly developed into a vibrant international literary and cultural green criticism trend. The academic inquiry is deep and the academic vision is broad. The main reason for the rise is the looming of the worsening ecocriticism and the development and maturity of ecological philosophy.

Ecocriticism is a literary criticism that explores the relationship between literature and nature under the guidance of ecologicalism, especially ecological holism. It reveals the ideological and cultural roots of the ecocriticism reflected in literary works, and also explores the ecological aesthetics of literature and its artistic performance. The object of ecocriticism is not only ecological literature, but also works that directly describe the natural landscape. From the perspective of ecologicalism and ecological aesthetics, ecocriticism re-examines and re-evaluates all the literatures of the past and the present, especially the classic works that have had a major impact on human civilization and social development. Its mission is to enrich the ecological meaning of literature and reveal the ecological limitations of literature, thus promoting people to establish ecological literary concepts and ecological aesthetic concepts, and to promote the formation and strengthening of ecological awareness and promote the construction of ecological civilization.

China's ecological consciousness can be traced back to the farming society. Because Chinese society has experienced a long agricultural society, the traditional ecological culture has a profound ideological foundation. The farming society believes that human beings and nature are one and the other is an affinity relationship. The development of Chinese ecocriticism is inextricably linked

with the development of European and American ecocriticism. The Chinese academic term "Ecocriticism" appears in the form of translating foreign ecocriticism literature. In the mid-1990s, China's ecocriticism mainly presented two theoretical forms, namely ecological aesthetics and ecological literature and art. After years of development, it has achieved good results. Based on the ecocriticism, it explores literature and the environment. The relationship between them belongs to eco-centrism-based ecocriticism. Since the 21st century, China's ecological problems have warmed up and social attention has increased, and the theory of ecological aesthetics has infiltrated. Ecocriticism has quietly emerged in the Chinese literary criticism community and has become one of the mainstream critical discourses.

2. Representatives of Ecocriticism in China

With the Chinese government's emphasis on the ecological environment, more and more Chinese scholars have joined the field of ecocriticism literature research. The main representatives include Wang Nuo, Lu Shuyuan and Zeng Fanren.

(1) Wang Nuo. Professor of the Chinese Department of the Humanities College of Xiamen University and Director of the Institute of Comparative Literature and World Literature, the research direction includes interdisciplinary comparative literature research in ecological perspective, European and American ecological literature and ecocriticism. "European and American Ecocriticism: An Introduction to Ecological Literature Research" is a monograph on European and American ecocriticism research. It mainly discusses the mission, ideological characteristics, aesthetics, principles and basic terminology of ecocriticism, the object, contribution and limit of ecocriticism, and the development of ecocriticism research in Europe and America. The philosophical foundation of ecological literature research, the entry point of ecological literature research and so on. "European and American Ecology Literature" is the first foreign ecological literature research monograph in China's academic circles. Based on a comprehensive investigation of the ecological thoughts from the past and the present, on the premise of careful analysis of many ecologically conscious literary works, draw on the views of Western ecological scholars. It formed its own understanding of ecological literature and reviewed various literary works of various eras before the era of ecological literature. This work not only establishes the standard for ecological literary creation and ecological literary criticism, but also provides a new perspective, new ideas and new methods for the entire literary study, making it more and more seemingly nowhere to go, more and more meaningless. Big literary research has produced new growth points.

(2) Lu Shuyuan. Former professor of the School of Literature, Suzhou University, doctoral tutor. Lu Shuyuan is a scholar based on the local, with a critique of modernity as the starting point of his ecocriticism. The collection of "cross-border research in literature" marks the results of the author's many years of painstaking research in psychology, linguistics and ecology. It also fully reflects the ecological, diversity and openness of his research path. The most important thing in the elimination of academic barriers is to always pulsate the care of life. Lu Shuyuan urged scholars to think more about the "Human Discipline", rather than screaming for globalization. He pointed out that ecology has long since surpassed the original discipline orientation, and the extended system embraced thinking about life and environment, human and nature, society and earth, spirit and matter. In the new context of "Human Discipline", ecology has gradually developed into a discipline against industrial society, and as a post-modern tide, one reveals its own subversive character. The importance of ecological concepts in deconstruction and reconstruction has inevitably extended to the field of spiritual and cultural studies. Lu Shuyuan therefore proposed "Ecological literature and art" at an early stage as a pioneering force in the era of green academics.

(3) Zeng Fanren. A famous esthetician, the founder of contemporary Chinese ecological aesthetics, a tenured professor at Shandong University. Zeng Fanren is at the core of the academic world, and thus can quickly set off the climax of China's ecocriticism and ecological aesthetics, and promote the group's strength to move forward. He is good at aesthetic research, and comes with an open acceptance attitude of ecocriticism. On the other hand, he repositions it and expands into a broader field of aesthetics to realize the innovation of ecocriticism in China. In the paper "The

Development and Basic Principles of Western Modern Literary Ecocriticism", the six characteristics of ecocriticism are summarized. First, literary criticism with ecological dimensions is fundamentally different from previous criticism schools; second, it is based on important measures to change people's cultural position and attitude toward nature; third, green for "value reconstruction" of literature reading; fourth, ecocriticism advocates an "Environmental Imagination" that adheres to the ecological standpoint; fifth, the effect of ecocriticism is to make natural "Negative Entropy" possible through "Green Reading"; sixth, ecocriticism is a kind of The construction of ecological poetics. Zeng Fanren proposed two models here, namely the creation of the new poetics norms and the transformation of the old poetic system. He believed that ecocriticism is a process of continuous development and openness.

3. Characteristics of Ecocriticism in China

Chinese ecocriticism has the following characteristics:

(1) Ancient ecological and cultural background. When ecocriticism is globally constructed, the absence of eastern thought and eastern experience is the biggest failure. The harmony of eastern experience and the inclusiveness of eastern discourse can correct the unilateralism and consumerism of western modernity and spread the beneficial experience to the world equally and benefit mankind. The essence of Chinese culture, the idea of green harmony, dialectical thinking, comprehensive fuzzy thinking, emphasis on the origin and difference of ideas, emphasizing the idea of "The benevolent loves others". It is a nourishment or interaction of Chinese thoughts with the west. The economics of modernity that emphasizes the conquest of nature and the maximum extraction of surplus value is completely different. In the period of "Post-easternism", the ecological aesthetics and ecological culture with oriental thought are dissolving people and others, people and themselves, The conflict between man and nature. In contemporary society, when Chinese ecocritics studied Western ecocriticism theory, it was found that discovering and introducing the spiritual resources of ancient Eastern civilization is an important development trend of ecological criticism. More and more ecological thoughts and ecological culture researchers have realized that discovering and introducing the ecological wisdom of the ancient East can find ideas for solving problems for ecological philosophy, ecological ethics, ecological literature and ecocriticism.

(2) Diversified ecological thoughts. China has a vast territory and a large number of ethnic groups. In the long process of historical development, the ethnic groups interacted with the natural environment in which they lived, constantly resisted, and coordinated, forming a rich and colorful ecological ethics with national characteristics, which not only contained the origin of the universe. The simple understanding of the creation of all things and the source of human origins also enriches the concept of natural philosophy, and lays a philosophical foundation for the formation of ethnic ethical awareness, which reflects the essence of ecological ethics. As a multi-ethnic country, China has merged with each other in history and formed a national relationship with reunification, peace and integration as the mainstream. This ethnic relationship is not only reflected in economic and political aspects, but also in the field of ideology and culture. In the construction of the multi-ecological theory system, in addition to Taoism and Confucianism, other ethnic minority cultures also contain rich ecological and cultural resources, showing extremely high ecological wisdom. The traditional ecological ethics of ethnic minorities pays attention to the harmonious coexistence between man and nature. It not only plays a huge role in human history, but also a precious cultural resource in the world. Therefore, we should explore the ecological wisdom of these national cultures and construct a true multi-ecological theory system from the perspective of cross-cultural and trans-civilization.

4. Development of Ecocriticism in China

The development of ecocriticism in China is mainly reflected in the construction of ecocriticism discourse, the rise of ecological literary creation and the literary creation under the perspective of ecocriticism:

(1) The construction of ecocriticism discourse. Discourse describes the way in which culture, ideology, language, society operate, and the way this operation manifests and sustains power and its operators. Ecocriticism is regarded as a discourse based on the recognition that each kind of literary research has a historical and cultural background, ideological background and theoretical context. Only by understanding this background and context can we accurately grasp the research. Substance and method. The method of "Discourse Study" on literary works is to examine the works based on the society on which the works are based and the spiritual background of the individuals or groups in which they are placed. Lu Shuyuan's paper "The Space of Ecological Criticism" published in the "Literature Research" magazine pointed out that ecocriticism followed the rise of post-colonial criticism and female criticism, which means "literary criticism" based on the "human civilization knowledge system" The shift of the times, this transfer may provide an opportunity for literature and art to "Rebuild a Grand Narrative and Recreate a Deep Model", and further push the construction of ecocritic theory deeper.

(2) The rise of ecological literature creation. Ecological literature, or environmental literature, green literature, includes depicting nature, describing the living conditions of human beings to show the relationship between man and nature, exposing ecological disasters, expressing environmental awareness, and literary works and literary phenomena. China's ecological literature mainly includes three aspects: first, ecological reportage. Starting from the concept of modern ecology, it focuses on revealing ecological imbalances and environmental crises, focusing on the relationship between people and nature, and advocating ecological and environmental protection reportage works. Its objective, swift, and vivid reflection of the stylistic features of the ecological status has become the first choice of many Chinese environmental literature creators. Second, ecological novels. With the intensification of the ecocriticism and the enhancement of the ecological consciousness of the Chinese people, the novel has gradually become a new force in Chinese ecological literature. Third, ecological prose. Because of its short and fine style, prose is easy to express thoughts and feelings, and is loved by many writers who pay attention to China's ecological problems. These achievements together promote the vigorous development of China's ecological literature, enhance the reader's ecological awareness, and in turn promote the further deepening of ecocriticism in China.

(3) Literary texts in the context of ecocriticism. After the introduction of ecocritic theory into China, the criticism and research of the creative text with a clear ecological consciousness quickly became a hot topic in the field of literary criticism. A large number of famous masterpieces in Chinese and foreign literary history were reinterpreted and interpreted, and many folk literature works. It has also become the focus of ecocritics. The ecocriticism of Chinese literature involves both ancient times and contemporary times. The study of contemporary literary works not only has the macroscopic examination and grasp of the creation genre and writers, but also the in-depth analysis and interpretation of the single works. A lot of achievements are based on foreign classic works, and the relationship between human and nature displayed in it is deeply explored, which broadens the research horizon. The results of case interpretation from the perspective of ecofeminism have opened up new perspectives and paths for Chinese ecocriticism. Folklore researchers have also paid enough attention to the theory of ecocriticism. Although the research results are not many, they have taken solid steps. A lot of research results have emerged, and China's ecocriticism has been implemented into specific criticism practices, which has enabled China's ecocriticism to prosper in a short period of time.

5. Existing Problems of Ecocriticism in China

While China's ecocriticism has achieved gratifying research results, compared with western ecocriticism, there are also many problems, which are highlighted in the following aspects:

(1) Most of the ecocritic works written by Chinese scholars lack conscious comparative literary consciousness. They lack the interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, and even cross-civilization perspectives of western ecocriticism, and there is a certain simplification tendency. It is often explained in the middle and the west. Interdisciplinarity is the most prominent feature of western ecocriticism.

(2) When discussing the Confucian and Taoist ecological thoughts, the elucidation of Chinese ecocritic scholars is obviously not deep enough. The two are often discussed separately, and the role of Taoism and Confucianism in solving today's environmental crisis is not discussed as a whole. When western ecocritic scholars explore the ecological themes of Taoism and Confucianism, they can organically combine the two.

(3) The research on the relationship between women's, natural, cultural and environmental crises in China's ecocriticism is obviously insufficient. Professor Lu Shuyuan's work on "Ecological Literature and Art" has been involved in the literary criticism of ecofeminism, and has a superb analysis of the relationship between women, literature and art, female oppression and natural degradation. Other scholars have less research results.

(4) The theory applied by Chinese ecocriticism is very immature, very single, and has a tendency to be flat. Western ecocriticism not only carries out literary and cultural criticism on the scale of ecology, but also actively borrows other critical theories, cross-integrates with other critical theories, deepens the content of ecocriticism, and expands the space of ecocriticism.

(5) China's ecocriticism has a tendency to simplify the interpretation and utilization of Chinese traditional cultural ecological resources. When interpreting Chinese culture and exploring ecological resources, we neglected to clean up the anti-ecological factors in Chinese culture. The direct cause of China's ecocriticism is the worsening ecological crisis. The rapid economic development of more than 20 years has led to a sharp deterioration of the environment, and China has paid a heavy ecological cost.

(6) China's ecocriticism theory is obviously lagging behind, still lingering in the dual mode of anthropocentrism and ecocentrism. It has not promoted the development of theory based on the needs of history and reality. It has not deepened the historical and realistic roots of the ecological crisis. Expand the horizon and academic space of ecocriticism.

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