

STRANGE STORIES FROM CHINESE STUDIOS AND GOTHIC LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

The ancient Chinese horror novel Strange Stories from Chinese Strange Studio vividly shows Chinese horror in front of the readers, which is a typical representative of Chinese horror literature. Gothic literature is a crucial literary genre of Western literature. Western research on Gothic literature is rich and detailed, and Gothic literature significantly impacts British and American literature. By studying their social and historical backgrounds, this paper will analyze their similarities and differences in scenes, characters, and writing characteristics and their development and influence on the Chinese and English academic circles.

Keywords: Strange Stories from Chinese Strange Studio, Gothic style, literature, comparative studies

FIRST STRANGE STORIES FROM CHINESE STRANGE STUDIO AND THE ORIGIN OF GOTHIC LITERATURE

1.1 The historical development of Chinese horror novels

Chinese horror novels have a long history of development, which began to rise since the Wei, Jin, Southern and Northern Dynasties, with the emergence of strange novels such as the Search of the Spirit and the Story of Strange Stories. Chinese horror novels continued to develop in the Tang and Song Dynasties, which can be reflected in the number. In the Song and Yuan Dynasties, horror novels continued to be created. It greatly promoted the development of horror novels and played a vital role in the creation of later horror novels.

1.2 The history of Gothic literature

In the Renaissance period, the architectural style with pointed arches was called "Gothic style", which gave people a dark, damp and strange feeling. This kind of architecture was usually tall and thick with thick walls, giving people a strong sense of oppression. Under the influence of the thought trend of Renaissance, this "dark, scary, weird and evil" style was integrated with literary works to form Gothic literature.

SECOND SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN STRANGE STORIES FROM CHINESE STUDIO AND GOTHIC LITERATURE

2.1 Art scene:

Similarities: Whether in Strange Stories from Strange Stories from Chinese Strange Studio or Gothic literature, the night is always consistent. The story always takes place in the dark night. The night always gives people tension and lack of security. How the authors of ancient horror stories liked to schedule their events at night. There are three reasons: First, the ancient Chinese theory of Yin and Yang holds that daytime belongs to Yang, night belongs to Yin, and so does ghost. Ghosts, on the other hand, are special forms of people after they die. They have no body to rely on and can only be active at night. Second, the night temperature is lower than the day, and the air humidity is higher than the day, will make people feel cool. When the hero of the story is in a nighttime environment, he is already lonely and cold, and he is more sensitive to terror both mentally and physically. Third, people's fear of the dark is a collective unconscious, people cannot get a sense of security in the dark. Under the cover of the night, the world around the perimeter is more mysterious and strange, people in a desolate, lonely state of imagination, thus falling into deep fear. [1] In Strange Stories from A Studio, such as "One night goes dark" [2] and "Light goes Dark" [3] in Dead Change, they are all descriptions of night. Gothic style, such as Allan POE's "A Telltale Heart", promotes the development of the plot at night, through which the hero carries out activities.

Differences: The scenes of stories in Strange Stories from Strange Stories from Chinese Strange Studio are usually not limited, which can be woods, temples, homes, etc., and the range of activities of characters is also very wide, while the scenes in Gothic literature are usually relatively limited, most of the scenes are churches, monasteries, prison cells, etc., which usually give people a feeling of gloom and darkness, and the scenes in Strange Stories from Strange Stories from Chinese Strange Studio are mostly dynamic, whether the wind blows or the grass moves. Or the dialogue between the characters is vivid and terrifying, however the scenes in Gothic literature are mostly static, which gives people mental deterrence in the endless static, and sometimes the sudden voice of the characters in the long silence will make the scene tenser. British writer Millie Bronte is good at using "Gothic techniques" to create scenes and add mystery and deep meaning dramatic literature. Her famous book Wuthering Heights is an example. The work will be "Wuxiao Heights" described as a mysterious and grotesque manor, manor gate has mysterious strange scabbers traces, bizarre full; The interior of the manor is not like ordinary manor warm and harmonious, but everywhere there are dark and gloomy scenes, no vitality. [4]

2.2 Character Image

Similarities: Most of the characters in Strange Stories from Chinese Strange Studio and Gothic literature have some social defects, such as being obsessed with money or doing something against social morality. Especially in Strange Stories from Chinese Strange Studio, the author often reflects some wrong behaviors through characters.

Differences: Strange Stories from Chinese Strange Studio characters in the image of strange, there are mutated animals, ghost into beauty, and some scary actions, such as the female ghost in the night black wind high mountain running after people, she raised his arm to choke people's neck and other plots, Strange Stories from Chinese Strange Studio horror novels in the ghost has a very ferocious, scary characteristics, at the same time with a horrible shape, The age of Pu Song gives them more dynamic characteristics; The writer shows a strong emotional tendency, punishing the wicked is very cruel, readers can feel the physical pain through

reading, and produce certain psychological reaction, so that the novel can achieve the effect of admonition. Again, whether the plot is wonderful or not is an important factor to judge the merits of the novel, Pu Songling is good at using the details of the description, people and ghosts fighting scenes written thrilling, natural plot development and gripping. Horror novels in Strange Stories from Chinese Strange Studio not only allow readers to gain novel experiences in the process of reading, but also provide a sense of pressure and tension brought by the close interaction between people and ghosts. Therefore, this kind of horror is rich and complex, which constitutes the unique artistic characteristics of horror novels in Strange Stories from Chinese Strange Studio. [5] The characters in Gothic literature do not cross species, but through the description of characters' personalities, they show an elusive way beyond the norms of daily life. The characters are often neurotic or have great personality contrasts. The plots are full of murder and fear of death. Gothic literature is more of a kind of deep psychological terror. For example, in the Black Cat, the cat made the hero extremely afraid and eventually he was tortured forever after killing the cat. The cat exposed the evil side of the hero, and the hero began to fear himself, and the readers were surprised and confused by what the hero had done. When describing characters, the writer especially adds the contradiction factor of good and evil, and portrays and shapes the image of good and evil in the contradiction. Influenced by "Gothic style", "villain" characters are prominent "Gothic" characters in British and American dramatic literature works. Some critics have argued that the Gothic protagonists in English and American literature are often "personality figures" in a state of madness, or "horrible demons". Among them, there are a lot of unidentified background, slightly twisted personality, or some mental disorder, they are almost all permeated with the "villain" factor. Although the characters themselves have the characteristics of evil, and the endings of the characters are often tragic, from the perspective of the whole character, these characters often have a certain personal charm, which makes people hard to understand, and then have to use alternative eyes to look at. For example, in Jane Eyre, the hero has obvious Gothic characteristics: serious face, dark cheeks, tight eyebrows, cowardice, unchallenged courage, gloomy and cold, etc., which makes readers hate in some aspects, but on the other hand, makes them feel pity. In short, it is very important to shape the image of Gothic characters to show the theme of the whole drama. [6]

2.3 Theme similarities:

Similarities: both reflect the pursuit of morality and ethics, and express the author's value pursuit through the positive or negative images of characters, reflecting the author's attitude towards life, life, love, etc.

Differences: Gothic literature is human-centered and reflects the theme through secular love and hate conflicts, usually murder and revenge as the theme, which makes people shudder in secular life, while Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio describes the horrible punishment in hell to achieve the role of warning and exhorting. Pu Songling, the author of Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio, was deeply influenced by Buddhism and Confucianism, emphasizing that evil should be rewarded with evil. Good comes good, by doing bad things the hero goes to hell by all kinds of cruel punishment to persuade people to do good, Pu Songling because of living in the turbulent Qing Dynasty, deeply troubled by war and oppression, saw the war brought pain to the people, so also in the "Strange Stories from Chinese Strange Studio" reflects the social status quo, praise the peaceful life. Gothic literature is the

product of people's anxiety in speech, and reflects the ideological style of "rebellion" by corresponding the repressed emotions in the heart with the scary and dark contents. Inheriting the purport of expressing inner anxiety, the terror and barbarism element in Gothic features is not only a formal characteristic expression, but also moves towards the content itself, pointing to the profound content of consciousness? Secondly, Gothic features have a strong critical nature. Different from the creation style that pursues the ideal form of social life, Gothic features are mostly accompanied by elements such as bloody violence, barbaric decadence, horror and illusion, and focuses on "evil". Gothic features relate to the dark elements of society, culture, ideology and other aspects, and are mostly combined with negative contents reflecting social life and moral consciousness. The critical nature of Gothic features not only has the great power of vertical deepening, but also has the infinite possibility of horizontal extension. [7]

2.4 Penalties Imposed

The similarity: both protagonists who are guilty of their behavior are punished

Differences: In "Strange Stories from Chinese Strange Studio", most of the protagonists will go to hell to receive punishment from hell, but the hell in the book is not simply terrible, hell will not do any punishment to good people, the book is more through physical torture to make punishment, and Gothic punishment is more mental torture, such as Edgar Allan Poe's "Leaked Heart" in the protagonist because he is afraid of the neighbor's blue eyes and plans a murder, he greets the neighbor warmly during the day and sneaks into his house at night, A few nights after he sneaked into his neighbor's house with a hand lamp shining through the crack in the door, his light woke up the neighbor, who shouted in horror, "Who is it, who is there?" "He walked into the neighbor's room from behind the door and smashed him, he hid the neighbor's body under the neighbor's floor, he also took the initiative to call the police, in order to enjoy this hunt more excitingly, watching the police stupid search, the murderer in front of his eyes did not know to make him very happy, he confidently and happily chatted with the police, talked and laughed with them, the police said to him that there was nothing strange, he looked at the stupid policeman and felt very excited, but suddenly he heard a voice, a powerful rhythmic voice, this voice disturbed him, He began to panic, his face turned pale, he now looked at the policemen and felt that they were all acting with him, and the police already knew that the murderer was him. The policeman was just watching his joke, he looked at the smiling faces of the policemen was extremely strange, the more he thought about it, the more afraid he was, the voice he heard was getting bigger and bigger, bigger and bigger, he couldn't stand it, he tried his best to disguise his anxiety, but he thought that the police must have heard this voice, this sound that was beating so powerfully, the sound was still getting louder and louder, bigger and bigger, he finally couldn't stand it, he lifted the floor of the neighbor's house, pointed to the corpse inside and said, look, look, right here, it's this damn beating heart. Gothic horror describes the psychological fear of the characters to the maximum, like in Poe's "Black Cat", the protagonist is afraid of the cat, reveals his tyranny, brutally kills his wife, and mutilates the cat to death, he hides his wife's body in the wall and covers it with cement outside, even if the police come and do not find any clues, but he sees the shadow of the black cat on the wall, exactly the same as the one he killed, and he has been living under the horror of the black cat ever since, This fear is usually gradual, continuous, challenging the protagonist's ability to bear, and suddenly erupting at a certain moment, this fear does not dissipate, it is a permanent psychological fear rather than a physical fear.

2.5 Common points of social and historical background:

Similarities: at that time, both of them were in the era of social reform, with great changes in ideology, culture, society, economy and other aspects.

Differences: Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio was influenced by Confucianism and Buddhism, with the purpose of remonstrating, and it was at a time of great changes in Chinese history. The invasion of Western countries has made social life difficult for the people, and reflects the criticism of the times through literary works. Gothic literature was in the trend of the Renaissance, when Western thought developed greatly, encouraging various forms of creation, and the emancipation of ideas also greatly promoted the development of Gothic literature.

THIRD, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TWO AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON LATER LITERATURE

China has had the creation of horror novels since ancient times, the emergence of " Strange Stories from Chinese Strange Studio " set off a frenzy of horror novels, opened the readers' thirst for horror novels, for Chinese literature, " Strange Stories from Chinese Strange Studio " reflects the combination of Confucianism and Buddhism, embodies the crystallization of Chinese thought and ideological and moral pursuit, and has the role of social education and exhortation. Pu Songling's Strange Stories from Chinese Strange Studio ushered in a new era of horror novels for China, becoming a well-known ancient horror novel in China, embodying the horror color of unique Chinese elements. Later generations also have outstanding achievements in the development of horror novels, such as "Tomb Robbery Notes" [8], which triggered a frenzy across the country, and May Day is the development of modern horror novels.

Gothic literature rose under the influence of the Renaissance trend, causing great repercussions, showing a new literary form, so that English and American literature spread and developed in different forms at a deeper and wider scale around the world, and Gothic characteristics are not fixed and immutable. The birth of the Gothic novel has its own specific historical and cultural soil, but this does not affect the rapid development of Gothic literature and Gothic characteristics. With the expansion of the influence of Gothic literature, after Gothic characteristics entered the literary field of European and American countries, they were combined with specific cultural characteristics and literary styles to develop unique Gothic characteristics. On the other hand, Gothic characteristics always radiate a strong literary vitality, and the ability to be eclectic makes it linked to multiple literary forms and produces more new content in collisions. In addition, Gothic characteristics are also constantly updating their own internal essence with the development of the times, traditional Gothic cannot meet the discovery needs of Gothic characteristics, and modernization oriented to literary development is the goal that Gothic characteristics are constantly pursuing. [9] The writing methods of Gothic literature also promoted the development of literature from various aspects, and Gothic artistic techniques had a profound impact on British and American dramatic literature. Among them, the criticism of human evil, the analysis of phenomena that affect human existence, and the beautiful pursuit of human goodness in the process of fighting against fate have made Gothic artistic techniques a very important way of expression in British and American drama literature. It is no exaggeration to say that the use of Gothic artistic techniques

has largely promoted the progress of British and American dramatic literature, and even in the context of the pluralism of dramatic literature worldwide, Gothic artistic techniques still have great influence. [10]Let the people analyze the problem from different angles, and trigger new thinking about death, darkness, beauty, goodness, etc. from the control of extreme spirits.

Literature is constantly developing in this way, literature embodies the spirit of an era, embodies the pursuit of a generation, through literature allows us to feel the glorious years, experience different life experiences, can also look forward to the existence of different dimensions through literature, give full play to the imagination and expectations of the world, through literature can speak for the world, shout for the times, dialogue with the soul, through different categories of literature, understand different cultures, literature is the collision of ideas, let us for life, life, love, family affection, Friendship has different cognitions, reading literary works is a dialogue with the times, many vivid characters, creating another world for us, a mirror of the real world, no matter what era, no matter any background, what remains unchanged is human beings' yearning for a peaceful and beautiful life, the pursuit of beautiful life, the endless exploration of knowing ourselves, and the infinite curiosity of this world. As it says in Shakespeare's sonnet18 everyone will die someday, but the literature will live as human still exist in the world.

Literature has a long and precious history of development, literature is the wealth of mankind, we must have a reverence for literature, take its essence from literature, find our own answers in different literary works, we must also make our own contributions to the long river of literature, reflect our thinking of the times, reflect our value, for future generations to learn and progress.

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