

Comparative Study of Chinese and Western Literature

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Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to comparatively study the differences and commonalities between Chinese literature and Western literature. First of all, the characteristics of the two are compared from three aspects, namely, presentation methods, thematic contents and literary forms. Chinese literature focuses on mood, ambiguity, and emphasizes the natural flow of emotions; while Western literature attaches importance to structure, logic, and pursues innovation in form. In terms of thematic content, Chinese literature tends to express personal emotions and expresses the harmony between human beings and nature and society; while Western literature focuses on the conflict between individuals and society and emphasizes freedom, equality and human rights. In terms of literary forms, Chinese literature coexists in various forms such as poetry, prose and novels, while Western literature takes novels, dramas and poems as its main forms. Secondly, this study explores the reasons for the differences between the two in terms of cultural background, writers' creative concepts and readers' acceptance. Chinese literature is deeply influenced by traditional cultural ideas such as Confucianism and Taoism, emphasizing moral education and philosophy of life; while Western literature is influenced by ancient Greek and Roman myths as well as religious beliefs such as Christianity, focusing on the inner world of man and exploring human nature. In terms of writers' creative concepts, Chinese writers tend to focus on social harmony from the perspective of traditional morality and ethics, while Western writers advocate the liberation of individuality and the pursuit of the realization of personal values. In terms of readers' acceptance, Chinese literature focuses on aesthetic experience and emotional resonance, while Western literature pays more attention to logical reasoning and thinking. The comparative study of Chinese literature and Western literature can help us better understand the diversity of world literature and enrich our concepts of literary aesthetics and creation. At the same time, by learning from the excellent achievements of Western literature, we can promote the innovation and development of Chinese literature.

Keywords: Chinese Literature; Western Literature; Comparative Study; Expression; Cultural Background; Creative Concepts.

1. Introduction

With the development of globalization, exchanges and dissemination of literary works have become more and more frequent, and the study of comparative literature has been paid more and more attention. As two independent literary systems, Chinese literature and Western literature each possesses unique characteristics and charms. This paper aims to explore the similarities and differences between Chinese literature and Western literature through comparative study, with a view to deepening the understanding of the two literary systems and promoting the exchange and integration of literature. Through the comparative study, this paper aims to reveal the similarities and differences between Chinese literature and Western literature in terms of presentation methods, thematic contents, literary forms, cultural backgrounds, writers' creative concepts, and readers' acceptance, so as to provide a brand new perspective for literary researchers and enthusiasts. It is hoped that this study can provide useful insights for the exchange and integration of Chinese and Western literature and promote the in-depth development of comparative literature.

2. Theme Comparison

2.1. Expression Methods

2.1.1. Expressive Techniques in Chinese Literature

The presentation methods of Chinese literature have a long history and have unique artistic characteristics. Since ancient times, Chinese literature has emphasized the expression of emotions and the creation of mood, pursuing the effect of "endless words and endless meaning". The use of imagery and metaphor is especially important in this expression.

First of all, imagery is the cornerstone of Chinese literature. Imagery is to visualize abstract thoughts and emotions through the author's depiction, so that readers can form a vivid picture in their mind. For example, "spring breeze" depicts warmth and hope, and "autumn rain" expresses desolation and loneliness. These images not only enhance the infectious power of the literary works, but also make the works have richer connotations.

Secondly, metaphor is another important means of expression in Chinese literature. Metaphor is to reveal the similarities between two seemingly unrelated things by comparing them. This technique makes literary works more profound and stimulates readers' imagination. For example, "life is like a dream" is used as a metaphor for the transience and impermanence of life, and "rivers and mountains are like paintings" is used to express the beauty and greatness of the country [1].

In addition, Chinese literature also emphasizes the use of rhythm and rhyme. There is an obvious sense of rhythm in poetry, prose and novels, which comes not only from the arrangement of words, but also from the musicality of language. Through the use of rhythm and rhyme, literary works can better express emotions and touch readers' hearts.

In conclusion, Chinese literature has a rich variety of expressive techniques, focusing on both the expression of emotion and the creation of mood. The use of imagery, metaphor, rhythm and rhyme makes Chinese literary works have unique artistic charm, and also earns Chinese literature a pivotal position in the history of world literature [2].

2.1.2. Expression Methods in Western Literature

The presentation methods of western literature are rich and varied, with distinctive features. First of all, western literature pays attention to the psychological description of characters,

and shows their complex emotions and contradictory personalities through the analysis of their inner world. For example, in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, the inner struggle and indecision of the main character Hamlet are delicately depicted so that readers can deeply understand his pain and confusion.

Secondly, western literature emphasizes the ups and downs of plot and drama. Writers skillfully arrange the plot to attract readers' attention through conflict and suspense. For example, Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* has a tight storyline with ups and downs of the characters' destinies, so that readers are deeply attracted into it [3].

In addition, western literature is also good at using symbols and metaphors to express deeper meanings through figurative things or scenes. For example, in Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*, the lighthouse symbolizes the main character's spiritual pursuit and the light of hope. This symbolic technique increases the depth and artistry of the literary work.

Western literature also focuses on innovation and experimentation of forms. For example, James Joyce's *Ulysses* employs the stream-of-consciousness technique, which breaks the traditional narrative structure and enables readers to directly enter the inner world of the characters. This innovative narrative technique opens up new possibilities for literary creation [4].

In general, the presentation techniques of western literature focus on psychological description, plot arrangement, symbolism and metaphor as well as formal innovation, which are intertwined with each other and together constitute the unique charm of western literature. Through these techniques, western literature is able to deeply explore the themes of human nature, society and the universe, bringing readers profound thoughts and feelings.

2.2. Thematic content

2.2.1. Thematic content of Chinese literature

The thematic contents of Chinese literature are rich and varied, ranging from the depiction of natural scenery to the exploration of life philosophy. In ancient literature, poetry and prose are the main forms of literature, while the thematic content covers politics, philosophy, history, morality and other aspects. Among them, the political theme is one of the important contents of ancient literature, and many literary works reflect the author's concern for national politics and social reality, such as Du Fu's *Spring Hope* and Bai Juyi's *Pipa Xing* [5].

In addition, there are also a large number of poems and prose in Chinese literature that feature natural scenery, such as Li Bai's *Will Enter Wine* and Wang Wei's *Autumn Night in a Mountain Dwelling*, which express the author's love of natural beauty and his feelings about life through the depiction of natural scenery. In addition, there are many other literary works with characters as the theme in Chinese literature, such as *Dream of Red Mansions* and *Water Margin*, etc. Through the portrayal of characters, these works show the author's profound thoughts on human nature, fate and social relations.

In modern literature, the content of the theme is even broader, with concern for reality as well as exploration of the future. Lu Xun's "Scream" and "Indecision" reveal the dark side of society and the distortion of human nature, and call for social reform and liberation of human nature. Ba Jin's works such as *Home* and *Spring*, on the other hand, pay attention to the lives of ordinary people and show the real face of life.

In general, Chinese literature is rich and varied in thematic content, with concern for reality as well as depiction of nature, review of history as well as exploration of the future, which together constitute the colorful and varied face of Chinese literature [6].

2.2.2. Thematic Content of Western Literature

The thematic content of Western literature is rich and diverse, covering love, friendship, family, power, human nature and other aspects. In the medieval West, due to the influence of religious asceticism, the theme of love often has a tragic color. For example, in Dante's *Divine Comedy*, the author explores the relationship between love, morality and religion through dialogues with hell, purgatory and heaven. Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, on the other hand, depicts the tragedy of two young people who cannot be united due to family hatred, which profoundly reflects the cruelty of feudal society and the suppression of love.

With the advent of the Age of Enlightenment, Western literature began to pay attention to the themes of humanity, freedom and democracy. For example, Hugo's *Notre Dame de Paris* reveals the sadness of religious hypocrisy and repression of human nature through the image of the vice-bishop Claude. 19th century realist literature pays more attention to the social problems and the life of the lower class people. For example, Balzac's *The Human Comedy* reflected the reality of French society at that time by depicting various social characters [7].

Into the 20th century, the themes of western literature became more diversified and complex. Modernist literature such as Kafka's *Metamorphosis* reveals the alienation and despair of human nature; postmodernist literature such as Borges' *Labyrinth* explores the relationship between reality and fiction. In addition, emerging literary genres such as feminist literature and black literature have emerged, focusing on previously marginalized groups and topics.

Overall, the themes of Western literature are rich and evolving, reflecting the ideology and exploration of human nature in different historical periods and social contexts. These themes not only add charm to Western literature, but also contribute valuable wealth to the world's literary treasury [8].

2.3. Literary Forms

2.3.1. Literary Forms of Chinese Literature

Chinese literature has a long history and rich literary forms, including poetry, prose, novels and drama. During the pre-Qin period, realism and romanticism literature coexisted, for example, the *Book of Poetry* reflected the real life, while the *Chu Ci* showed the spirit of romanticism. From the Han Dynasty to the North and South Dynasties, poetry was highly accomplished, such as the "Southeast Flight of the Peacock" and the "Mulan Rhetoric", the "Jian'an Literature" represented by the "Three Cao", and the idyllic school of poetry represented by Tao Yuanming, etc. The Tang Dynasty was the heyday of poetry, and it was the first time that poetry was written in China. The Tang Dynasty was the heyday of poetry, with the Four Heroes of the Early Tang Dynasty and the Four Great Poets of the Sheng Tang Dynasty.

In terms of prose, there were two schools in the pre-Qin period: Zhuzi and Shishu. There were Confucianism's "Analects" and "Mencius", Taoism's "Laozi" and "Zhuangzi", and Legalism's "Han Fei". History books include *Spring and Autumn Annals* and *Zuo Zhuan*. In the Tang Dynasty, there were leaders of the ancient literature movement such as Han Yu and Liu Zongyuan. In the Song Dynasty, there were

Ouyang Xiu and Su Shi.

As for novels, there were "legends" in the Tang Dynasty, such as "Song of Everlasting Hatred". In the Song Dynasty, there were the "talking book" and the "proposed talking book", such as "Water Margin" and "Journey to the West". In the Ming and Qing Dynasties, novels became more mature, and there were four famous novels: Dream of the Red Chamber, Journey to the West, Romance of the Three Kingdoms, and Water Margin.

In terms of drama, there were legendary dramas in the Tang Dynasty, such as "The Song of Everlasting Hatred"; there were southern operas and miscellaneous dramas in the Song Dynasty; there were Yuan miscellaneous dramas, such as Ma Zhiyuan and Guan Hanqing; and there were legends and miscellaneous dramas in the Ming and Qing Dynasties. In a word, Chinese literature is in various forms, each with its own characteristics, showing a rich and colorful cultural connotation [9].

2.3.2. Literary Forms of Western Literature

The literary forms of western literature are rich and diverse, with unique aesthetic characteristics. First of all, western literature includes novels, poems, dramas and essays in terms of genre, and each genre has its unique artistic characteristics. For example, novels focus on storytelling, showing the theme through detailed characterization and plot development; poems focus on lyricism, using rhyme and rhythm to express attitudes towards life and emotions; dramas focus on stage performances and dialogues, showing social contradictions and human nature through interactions between characters; and essays are narrated in plain language, emphasizing the expression of ideas and opinions.

Secondly, in terms of narrative style, western literature is characterized by jumping, flashbacks and multiple perspectives. Jumping narrative increases the complexity and depth of the story through the technique of crossing time and space; flashback narrative makes the story more fascinating by narrating in reverse from the ending; multi-perspective narrative shows the story from the viewpoints of different characters, so that readers can understand the psychology and emotion of characters more comprehensively [10].

In addition, Western literature focuses on the use of symbolism, implication and metaphor in its creative techniques. Symbolism represents specific meanings through characters, objects or events, which increases the mood and depth of the work; allusion conveys the author's point of view and moral meaning in an indirect way, so that readers can realize the meaning of the work in their thinking; metaphor expresses deep philosophy and emotion by comparing one thing to another.

Meanwhile, western literature also emphasizes the beauty of form and language art. In form, literary works emphasize the harmony of structure and layout, and pursue musicality and rhythm. In language, writers use rich rhetorical techniques, such as metaphor, anthropomorphism, hyperbole, etc., so that the works have vivid images and distinctive personalities [11].

To sum up, the literary forms of western literature are diverse and unique, showing the unique aesthetic features of western literature through different genres, narrative styles, creative techniques and language arts. These features not only make the western literary works have artistic charm, but also provide the readers with broad imagination space and thinking space.

3. Cultural Background Comparison

3.1. Cultural Background of Chinese Literature

Chinese literature has a long history and has evolved over thousands of years, carrying rich and diverse cultural connotations. Ancient Chinese literature is centered on Confucianism, emphasizing moral edification and advocating traditional virtues such as loyalty, filial piety and etiquette. Various forms of literature, such as poetry, prose, novels, and operas, have embodied Confucian political ideas, moral concepts, and philosophies of life. Taoism, Buddhism and other ideas have also had a profound influence on Chinese literature, which has characterized literary works as transcendent, pursuing nature and emphasizing human nature [12].

In its historical evolution, Chinese literature has been constrained and influenced by politics, economy and culture in different periods. For example, the prosperity and openness of the Tang Dynasty made poetry reach an unprecedented peak; the flourishing of rationalism in the Song Dynasty promoted the development of the word; the novel gradually became the mainstream of literature as the civic class grew in the Ming and Qing Dynasties. In addition, regional cultural differences also characterized the diversity of Chinese literature, such as poetry in the Jiangnan region and novels in the north.

In Chinese literature, there are many literary groups and schools, such as the Eight Great Men of the Tang and Song dynasties and the Four Great Talents of Jiangnan, etc. They influenced each other and made progress together, which promoted the development of literature. At the same time, literature and other fields such as art, philosophy and history intermingle with each other, forming a unique literary style [13].

In short, Chinese literature has a deep and rich cultural background, which not only embodies the political, economic, ideological and moral characteristics of ancient China, but also shows the national character, aesthetic interests and values. These characteristics make Chinese literature occupy an important position in the history of world literature and have a profound influence on the later generations.

3.2. Cultural background of Western literature

Western literature, on the other hand, is influenced by cultural traditions such as ancient Greco-Roman mythology and Christianity, which pay more attention to individualism, human nature analysis and religious exploration [14]. These elements make western literature often show in-depth analysis of human nature and exploration of religion and philosophy. Western culture, on the other hand, tends to be analytical and rational thinking, emphasizing the independence and individuality of things [15]. In general, the influence of cultural background on literature is multifaceted, including both the thematic content of literature and the form and style of literature. Knowing and understanding different cultural backgrounds help us to understand and appreciate the literary works of different cultures at a deeper level.

4. Comparison of Writers' Creative Concepts

4.1. Creative Concepts of Chinese Writers

The creative concepts of Chinese writers are deeply

influenced by traditional culture and modern thought. They often emphasize the social responsibility and moral edification of literature, while pursuing artistic beauty and innovation. Chinese writers pay attention to the expression of emotions and the portrayal of interpersonal relationships in their creations, and emphasize the complexity and plurality of human nature. They create literary works of realistic significance and the spirit of the times by observing and thinking about life and paying attention to social problems. At the same time, Chinese writers have also been influenced by Western literature and have begun to experiment with various modernist and postmodernist creative techniques, such as experimental writing and absurdist drama, in order to expand the field and depth of literary expression. In general, the creative concepts of Chinese writers are diversified and rich. While inheriting the traditional culture, they also actively absorb the advanced experience of foreign literature and strive to promote the development and innovation of Chinese literature.

4.2. Creative Concepts of Western Writers

The creative concepts of western writers are influenced by many factors, including social environment, cultural background and philosophical thoughts. During the period of modernism, Western writers often pay attention to the spiritual crisis of human beings and individual experience, showing their dissatisfaction with reality and anxiety about the future. For example, Virginia Woolf's fluid consciousness writing technique shows the loneliness and confusion of individuals in modern society by depicting the inner thought process of the characters.

On the other hand, Western writers have often explored the complexity of human nature and moral dilemmas. For example, William Faulkner's works delve into the social problems and spiritual crises of the American South and the entire Western world. His work *Hustle and Bustle* shows the decline of the family and the distortion of human nature through three different narrators.

In addition, Western writers have been influenced by philosophical ideas such as existentialism and absurdism. Albert Camus's *The Outsider* explores the absurdity of human existence and the choice of freedom through the indifference and detachment of the protagonist, Meursault. This reflection on human existence and freedom is also reflected in the works of other Western writers, such as Jean-Paul Sartre and Ian McEwan.

In general, the creative concepts of Western writers are diverse and complex, and they express their dissatisfaction with reality, exploration of human nature and philosophical thinking through their works. These creative concepts not only reflect the cultural background of Western society, but also influence the development and evolution of Western literature [16].

4.3. Differences in Creative Concepts and Their Influence

There are obvious differences in creative concepts between Chinese literature and Western literature, and these differences affect the style and themes of literary works to a certain extent.

First of all, the creative concepts of Chinese literature are deeply influenced by Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism, emphasizing the unity of heaven and man, moral cultivation and philosophy of life. Chinese writers pay attention to the

social responsibility and edifying function of literature in the process of creation, and pursue the ideological connotation and moral edification of their works. Therefore, Chinese literary works often have deep philosophical thoughts and ethical and moral connotations, such as the profound revelation of human nature in *Dream of Red Mansions* and the exploration of life philosophy in *Journey to the West* [17].

In contrast, the creative concepts of Western literature emphasize more on individualism, freedom and human liberation. Western writers focus on the artistry and independence of literature, and pursue the formal beauty and personalized expression of their works. Western literature pays more attention to individual fate, human struggles and emotional conflicts, such as the exploration of human nature in Shakespeare's tragedy *Hamlet* and Shelley's praise for the pursuit of freedom in his poem *Ode to the West Wind*.

These differences in creative concepts make Chinese literature and Western literature present different characteristics in terms of style and themes. Chinese literature usually has a subtle, elegant and profound style, focusing on the internal logic of the plot and the portrayal of characters; while Western literature is more direct, passionate and diverse, emphasizing the drama of the plot and personalized expression. In terms of theme, Chinese literature focuses more on moral edification and life philosophy, while Western literature pays more attention to human nature, freedom and individual destiny [18].

This difference not only affects the styles and themes of Chinese and Western literary works, but also has a profound impact on the development of Chinese and Western literature. In China, literature has always been regarded as a vessel for carrying the Way, emphasizing its social responsibility and edifying function, which made Chinese literature reach a very high achievement in the Middle and Ancient Periods. However, in the modern period, with the introduction of Western literature and the rise of individualism, Chinese literature began to change, writers began to pay attention to the fate of the individual and the struggles of human nature, and the forms and themes of literature also changed greatly.

In the West, the pursuit of individualism and artistry in literature led to the diversification of Western literature in all periods. From Ancient Greek literature to the Renaissance, and from the Enlightenment to modern literature, Western literary works have been constantly innovated in form and theme, and a large number of literary giants and classics have emerged [19].

To summarize, there are obvious differences between Chinese literature and Western literature in terms of creative concepts, and these differences affect the style and themes of literary works to a certain extent. Through comparative study, we can better understand the characteristics and development trends of Chinese and Western literature, so as to broaden our literary horizons and aesthetic concepts.

5. Comparison of Readers' Acceptance

5.1. Reader Acceptance of Chinese Literature

Reader acceptance of Chinese literature is deeply influenced by its cultural tradition, aesthetic habits and reading preferences. First of all, Chinese literature emphasizes the expression of mood, ambiguity and profoundness, which makes literary works often require readers to have a certain cultural literacy and aesthetic interests in order to fully understand and appreciate them. For

example, the imagery, idiomatic allusions and metaphors in classical poems require readers to have a certain literary background knowledge in order to appreciate their essence [20].

Secondly, Chinese literature is also unique in its narrative style, such as chapter books, novels and novels, which pay attention to the coherence of the plot and the completeness of the story, as well as moral education and humanistic concern, which makes the readers not only enjoy the ups and downs of the storyline, but also be educated and inspired in the process of reading.

Furthermore, the readers' acceptance of Chinese literature is also influenced by the background of the times. With the accelerated pace of life in modern society, people have relatively less time and energy for reading literature, which challenges the traditional reading habits of Chinese literature. Modern readers may be more inclined to fast-paced, straightforwardly expressed literary works, which poses a demand for change in both the traditional form and content of Chinese literature.

However, despite the fact that the fast-paced lifestyle of modern society may have a certain impact on the readers' acceptance of Chinese literature, Chinese literature's deep historical heritage and unique cultural charm still attract a large number of readers. Many classic works, such as *Dream of the Red Chamber* and *Journey to the West*, are still being reinterpreted and appreciated in the context of the new era, showing the charm and influence of Chinese literature across the ages.

5.2. Reader Acceptance of Western Literature

Reader acceptance of Western literature is a complex issue, which is influenced by many factors. First of all, reader acceptance of Western literature is closely related to the quality of translation of literary works. The accuracy and the extent of the translation directly affect the readers' understanding and appreciation of the work. Secondly, the readers' acceptance of western literature is also influenced by the readers' own cultural background and reading habits. Many themes and expressions in Western literature may be different from Chinese cultural traditions and aesthetic concepts, which may require readers to have certain cross-cultural literacy and an open mind. In addition, the dissemination channels and promotion efforts of Western literature may also affect its acceptance by readers in the Chinese market. If Western literary works can be widely disseminated through multiple channels and effectively promoted, they will have a greater chance to be understood and accepted by Chinese readers. In general, the reader acceptance of Western literature is affected by many factors, including the quality of translation, readers' cultural background, reading habits, and dissemination channels. To improve the reader acceptance of Western literature in the Chinese market, we need to work on these aspects, provide high-quality translations, promote cultural exchanges, and cultivate readers' cross-cultural reading skills.

5.3. Differences in Reader Acceptance and Reasons for It

Reader acceptance is one of the important criteria for evaluating the influence of literary works. There are certain differences in reader acceptance between Chinese literature and Western literature, and these differences mainly stem from the differences in cultural background, creative concepts

and expression methods.

First of all, cultural background has a significant impact on reader acceptance. Chinese literature is deeply influenced by Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism and other traditional cultural ideas, emphasizing moral education and far-reaching meanings. Western literature, on the other hand, pays more attention to values such as individualism and free will, and pursues the excavation and expression of human nature. This difference in cultural background leads to the fact that readers of Chinese literature pay more attention to the ideological connotation of the works, while readers of Western literature pay more attention to the artistic expression of the works and the exploration of human nature.

Secondly, the difference in creative concepts is also an important factor affecting readers' acceptance. When Chinese writers create their works, they often take the responsibility of passing on culture and educating the people, and emphasize the moral and educational significance of their works. In contrast, Western writers pay more attention to self-expression and exploration, and emphasize the artistry and innovation of their works. This difference in creative concepts makes Chinese literary works more instructive, while Western literary works are more inspiring and thought-provoking.

In addition, the differences in presentation methods also have an impact on readers' acceptance. Chinese literature is good at using allegory, symbolism and other techniques to express the theme and moral of the work in a subtle way. Western literature, on the other hand, is more inclined to directly depict the inner world of characters and reveal the complexity of human nature. This difference in expression makes Chinese literature more imaginative and tasteful, while Western literature is more likely to arouse readers' empathy and thinking.

In conclusion, the differences in reader acceptance between Chinese literature and Western literature mainly stem from the differences in cultural backgrounds, creative concepts and expressive methods. Understanding these differences will help us better appreciate and understand the unique charms of different literary works and broaden our literary horizons. In today's context of globalization, strengthening the exchange and comparative study of Chinese and Western literature will help promote mutual cultural understanding and respect, and contribute to the prosperity of world literature.

6. Conclusion

After a comparative study of Chinese literature and Western literature, we can find that despite the many differences between the two, they both have unique charms and values in literary creation.

Chinese literature emphasizes mood, ambiguity and rhythm, and its various expressive methods, such as landscape and countryside, family and national feelings, are all expressed in poetry, lyrics, prose and other literary genres. At the same time, Chinese literature focuses on moral education and historical inheritance, which makes the works have a strong sense of social responsibility and historical mission. In contrast, Western literature pays more attention to the emancipation of individuality and human freedom, and its methods of expression are more direct and frank. From ancient Greek epic and tragedy, to Renaissance drama and novels, to modernist literature, Western literature has been exploring the inner world of man, pursuing formal innovation and ideological liberation.

In terms of cultural background, Chinese literature is

deeply influenced by Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism, emphasizing the harmony between man and nature and man and society. Western literature, on the other hand, is deeply influenced by Christianity, Greco-Roman mythology and other religions and myths and legends, emphasizing man's original sin, destiny and redemption. These differences in cultural background make Chinese and Western literature present different characteristics in terms of thematic content and literary form.

In terms of writers' creative concepts, Chinese writers often take the responsibility of passing on culture and promoting morality, and focus on the social function of literature. On the other hand, Western writers pay more attention to self-expression and individual liberation, and emphasize the artistic value of literature. This difference in creative concepts has also led to differences in the methods of expression, thematic content and literary forms of Chinese and Western literature.

In terms of readers' acceptance, Chinese literature has a wide readership both at home and abroad, especially classical and contemporary literature. And Western literature also has a high degree of reader acceptance in China, especially modernist and post-modernist works. However, compared with Western literature, there is still a gap between the dissemination and influence of Chinese literature abroad.

In conclusion, Chinese literature and Western literature differ in many aspects, and these differences make world literature more colorful. Through the comparative study of the two, we can better recognize and understand the characteristics of Chinese and Western literature, so as to broaden our literary horizons and enrich our spiritual world. In our future literary creation and research, we should pay more attention to the exchange and mutual understanding between Chinese and Western literature in order to promote the prosperity of world literature.

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