

The Study of Feminism Based on Peaky Blinders

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Abstract: This paper makes an in-depth analysis of the "Peaky Blinders" from the aspects of role setting and plot arrangement from the standpoint of feminism, and tries to explain the breakthrough of the play in reshaping the female image and constructing the main body of female mainstream ideology. In the "Peaky Blinders", we can see the development process of feminist creative ideas from "the initial stage of essentialism tendency" to "the transitional stage of collision and integration of different feminist ideas" to "the experimental stage of trying a variety of feminist expressions" and then to "the personality stage of giving up ideas and free expression" which reflects women's recovery of initiative, women are the core and master their own emotional life. Through the analysis of the origin and development of feminism and the creation of female characters in the "Peaky Blinders", this paper reveals the great significance of female characters and tries to provide ideas for the process of creating them in film and television works for the long-term production. European and American female TV dramas can be regarded as an early and systematic bold practice of "she culture" in the field of film and television popular culture, providing rich content and various types of image texts. The image world in European and American female TV dramas corresponds to the real life under "her culture". It can be seen that European and American female TV dramas are new cultural products, which are closely related to the culture of the times and echo each other, which are its advantages. However, how to develop and improve in the future, how to develop new ideas and enrich the meaning of the text, and maintain fresh vitality and keen cultural insight are what European and American female TV dramas should think and adjust at this stage.

Keywords: Feminism, Television play, Female characters, Feminist creative ideas.

1. Introduction

"Peaky Blinders"[1] tells the story of Peaky Blinders, a legendary gangster family in Birmingham after the First World War. Dating back to 1919, family members have a big hobby, which is to sew razor blades between the brims of their hats, which is also the origin of the name "Peaky blinders".

From the standpoint of feminism[2], this paper makes an in-depth analysis of the "Peaky Blinders" from the aspects of role setting and plot arrangement, and tries to explain the breakthrough of the play in reshaping the female image and constructing the main body of female mainstream ideology.

As an ideological trend, feminism has been announced during the French Revolution in the 18th century and gradually developed into a worldwide organized political liberation movement in the 19th century. Its purpose is to realize the equality of gender political rights in the whole society. With the "second wave" of feminism in the 1960s, feminism, as a universal perspective of cultural criticism, has been widely used in academic analysis. It can be seen that feminist theory is based on such a cognitive premise - the current social culture is constructed centered on male power, in which "women" are constructed as a group discriminated and oppressed based on unreliable biological determinism.

In addition to matrilineal society, before feminism, the subject of human beings was men, not women. Women have always been the object of history, the projection of nature and the other. From ancient times to the present, women have not really formed a "whole with gender responsibility consciousness". For men, the current historical period has come. We don't need a pet, but a partner who can really negotiate and go together. At the same time, we can prove this point from the female examination ability year by year. In addition, while proving their own abilities, many women have also entered a dilemma of hesitation, and finally put their eyes

on the happiness of their families and individuals. Few people can associate their own destiny with the country and history. The importance of feminism is that it can make women have a broader love - not only in individuals, families, but also in society, countries and human groups. The purpose of feminism is not only to let men give up half of their hips from the "human" seat, but also to hope that women can become masters of their own destiny, become historical practitioners, and take the initiative to assume her historical responsibility as the other half of human subjects.

2. Origin of Feminism

There are a lot of feminist theories[3], but in the final analysis, it is one sentence: achieve gender equality in all mankind. All feminist theories have a basic premise: women are oppressed and discriminated all over the world. Women are in an unequal position with men in politics, economy, culture, thought, cognition, concept, ethics and other fields. Even in the private field such as family, women are also in an unequal position with men. This is particularly evident in the "Peaky Blinders". Women have very limited voice in the Shelby family - although Polly is an elder of the Shelby family and took charge of the family business before Tommy came back, she still had to hand over control after Tommy came back. As a member of the real Shelby family, Ada has no voice in the family and can't even fall in love freely. Esme was married as a tool for marriage with the Shelby family. Although it was ambitious, it didn't help.

The purpose of the feminist movement is to achieve equality between men and women.

3. The Development of Feminism

In the 19th century, with the deepening of the Western feminist movement, women gradually achieved an

unprecedented position in politics and social rights. Western women began to gain the same right to education as men. They began to enter the classroom, learn painting, listen to music, and read the ideological essence of philosophical masters. They pointed their spears at all traditional ideas and cultures, realized rebellious consciousness and behavior, widely publicized and organized anti patriarchal and anti traditional themes, wrote their own life ideals with art, and expressed their views on the world.

In 1917, , an American female painter, held her first solo exhibition at the "291" avantgarde Gallery in New York. She was the first female artist in the United States to hold a solo painting exhibition at that time. The black iris, which she completed in 1926, integrates the extremely self-conscious female consciousness into the nature, and enlarges the flowers wirelessly into a micro female world. Feminism has achieved her artistic dream, and her works of art have later become the earliest classics in feminist art. Early feminism opened a possible door to the palace of art for women who love art, enabling them to gradually acquire the ability of independent thinking and find a new way out of life. The power of feminism encourages and empowers female artists. At the same time, they are also changing our view of the world and challenging the patriarchal culture that has been inherent for thousands of years.

From the enlightenment thought, all important theories flaunt their universality and gender nature. From Hegel to some modern thinkers, they all have this tendency. Those theorists who emphasize gender differences claim to be gender neutral, but in the view of postmodern feminism, these theories are based on men and completely ignore the existence of women. For example, in terms of the division between the public sphere and the private sphere, it is generally believed that the former is the world of men and the latter is the home of women, which is a typical patriarchal political thought. Postmodern feminism believes that Foucault's thought about self experience can be transformed into modern feminist ethics about women and motherhood. Modern traditional feminist theory has always divided human characteristics into two categories: masculinity and femininity. Postmodern feminism challenges this division. Remind people of the differences between men and women. In the artistic expression of postmodern feminism, the elements, themes and the artistic program of postmodern feminism are completely consistent in the practical creation of feminism.

4. The Status Quo of Feminism Research in China

With the development of Western feminist movement and the theorization and systematization of feminism, family system has gradually become the focus of feminist thinkers. However, at the beginning of the birth of the women's movement, there was a tendency to pay more attention to practice than theory. Until today, the guiding ideology and practical level of feminism basically remain in the view that "the disadvantage of women in the labor market is the root of the inequality of social status between men and women".

At the beginning of last century, when feminism was introduced, it also brought in the Western feminist movement and feminist thought. Especially since the late 1980s, feminist theory has developed rapidly by taking advantage of the strong east wind of reform and opening up and the fourth World Women's Congress held in 1995[4].

As early as the May 4th Enlightenment movement, it proposed "personality liberation" and "democracy and freedom", which broke the traditional bondage of some women. A group of intellectual women participate in writing, and they strive to find female perspectives, narrative methods and female discourse. However, female literature in this period is basically equal to the literature of female writers, and its division standard is only based on the natural biological differences between female writers and male writers. This can not be regarded as feminism, but a bud.

In China, the origin and development of women's liberation are different from the Western feminist movement. Chinese feminism mainly focuses on cultural issues, such as bondage, concubinage, marriage arrangement, female chastity and gender segregation, and gradually integrates western feminism into the local context. As an integral part of the Chinese women's movement, the field of Chinese women / gender research is not the product of women's movement in the West. Chinese scholars need to constantly strive to explore the theoretical frontier and explore different views on women's issues by constantly transmitting and integrating western feminist theories in the local context.

In the face of social competition, the situation of equality between men and women is unprecedented imbalance. A large number of foreign feminist literary works were published during this period. With the gradual introduction of the main theories of Western women, there has been a new breakthrough in the understanding of the meaning of women's literature. So far, there has been a real theoretical research.

5. Creation of Female Characters

Aunt Polly's characters are tenacious and resolute, and he is an iron lady. When Aunt Polly was in charge of the company, she was in charge of her two brothers' business. On weekdays, she assists Tommy, gives advice for Tommy and calms the army. She was a strong woman. At that time, Birmingham was a slum. It was not easy to survive. Polly raised several bear children alone. Later, when the men in her family went to the battlefield to fight for her country, she had to pick up a gun to protect herself and her family and maintain the normal operation of the whole family business. She had the courage that women didn't have in that era, overcome countless difficulties and encounter countless dangers. In the case of Ada and Freddy, Polly wanted Ada to be happy. She didn't want Ada to repeat her mistake of having an illegitimate child, being stigmatized for a lifetime, and almost dying of abortion, so she thought Freddy should be given a chance to come back and reunite with Ada. Later, due to Tommy's order, Polly persuaded Ada to have an abortion. She tearfully advised Ada that she had paid a heavy price for a failed love and could no longer have a normal family like an ordinary woman, but she hoped Ada could have normal love. Polly is a woman. She can't be as cruel as Tommy. But Polly is the most understanding person in the family. She knows that Tommy gave the power to the family so that the people of the family don't have to be slaughtered, so she advised Ada to forgive Tommy. She knows that everything Tommy does is for the family. If the family is not united, then everything is meaningless. So she talked to grace alone and forced her to leave Birmingham so that she couldn't hurt Tommy again. In a word, Polly is the Patron saint of Shelby's family. Aunt Polly has a similar character to Tommy. He is also one of the few people who can be considerate of Tommy. As a woman, she has her own dignity, sharp eyes and sharp words. Aunt Polly

is the female version of Tommy. In addition to the occasional vulnerability of women, Aunt Polly is as firm, smart, steady and attaches importance to her family as Tommy. Similarly, like Tommy, he is black and blue, loses his family, and yearns for but can't have love.

The Duchess of Russia is portrayed as charming and crazy, full of destruction. In the third season, Tatiana, the Duchess of Russia, as a duchess who grew up with noble education at the ball held by the hostess, is not inferior even to the heroine. Tatiana is elegant and spiked. Even if Shelby is around to cheer, the heroine is a little overwhelmed. Then she predicted that the heroine would encounter bad luck wearing the sapphire cursed by gypsy witchcraft. As a result, the heroine immediately died to help Tommy block the bullet. The elegant part ended after that, and then she began to bring her crazy performance to the audience. After Shelby was deeply hurt by the heroine's death, Tatiana, who came to negotiate, immediately filled the gap as the audience wished. The charm from the sofa to the bed makes people salivate. Then the madness of the revolver game began, which frightened the hero. The dance at the residence of the Duke of Russia is definitely one of the climaxes of the third season. The debauchery at the Russian dance is dazzling, but it is dwarfed by the crazy performance of Tatiana and Shelby. Tatiana exposed Shelby's heart and said he was still deeply thinking of his dead wife. Then when he cried deeply in her arms, she gave him wild sex, which poked into Shelby's soul. At that moment, it was as if the angel and the devil were attached to Tatiana at the same time, which made Shelby feel the feeling of the edge of death again. After the face of his dead wife appeared in front of him, Shelby really put it down. He put down his hatred and his lost lover. Shelby has a stronger impetus for the future and the plan. After the appalling tunnel bombing, Tatiana also appeared in front of Shelby to celebrate the victory and share the stolen goods. Because the confidence shown by Shelby in the previous plan shows that his deal with Russia will be completed, but he will not betray the country. The only explanation is that he must know all the plans and have another plan with the Duchess who knows well about the Russian nobles. Also let the audience know that what Tatiana has done for Shelby before is actually for herself, for the smooth completion of the plan, and for getting rid of the shackles of the family who dreams of restoring the country. Tatiana's most beautiful moment also appeared in this parting meeting. It was the scene of Shelby shaking hands with her and saying goodbye. She took the initiative to kiss Shelby and clenched her lips. The enchanting charm and the unique madness of Russians were perfectly displayed at this time.

"Women's dramas advocate women's alliance and highly value the friendship between women". Most female dramas[5] are characterized by the construction of female group images, and the "Peaky Blinders" is no exception. Women have class and stratum differences, and are isolated by different religions, nationalities and families. Therefore, women are scattered in various units of society. In each unit, they are dominated by men, and women are dominated and vassal ". This means that one of the reasons why women are the "other" is that women who are separated into individuals cannot form a strong alliance. Women's group image is actually an emphasis on women's friendship and alliance.

In the "Peaky Blinders", we can see the development process of feminist creative ideas from "the initial stage of essentialism tendency" to "the transitional stage of collision and integration of different feminist ideas" to "the

experimental stage of trying a variety of feminist expressions" and then to "the personality stage of giving up ideas and free expression".

European and American TV dramas have set off an upsurge of female dramas since 2000, which is closely related to the development of "her culture"[6]. In a broad sense, the "she culture" without text can be supported in European and American female TV dramas after 2000. In other words, European and American female TV dramas can be regarded as an early and systematic bold practice of "she culture" in the field of film and television popular culture, providing rich content and various types of image texts. The image world in European and American female TV dramas corresponds to the real life under "her culture". The former is a vivid symbol reproduction of the latter. Like "her culture", European and American female TV dramas[7] also have their progressive significance and limitations. However, European and American female TV dramas have an excellent diagnosis of the role of "her culture" at the visual level and narrative level. It is undeniable that the shaping of female roles and the plot are a vivid representation of "her culture". In terms of diagnosing and explaining the individuality and subjectivity of women emphasized by "her culture", European and American female TV dramas achieve their goals through their unique concept of sexual orientation[8]. For example, the "Peaky Blinders" reflects women's recovery of initiative, women are the core and master their own emotional life.

6. Conclusion

The significance of the "Peaky Blinders" is significant. Within the scope of film and television text dissemination, the play subverts the traditional shaping of female images and calls for a more real, multifaceted and three-dimensional female subject. Through the text of the TV play, the play reflects its position in the face of Gender Opposition in the discourse system, abandoning this arbitrary binary opposition one by one, Shape the personality of the unity of male and female temperament. It can be seen that European and American female TV dramas are new cultural products, which are closely related to the culture of the times and echo each other, which are its advantages. However, how to develop and improve in the future, how to develop new ideas and enrich the meaning of the text, and maintain fresh vitality and keen cultural insight are what European and American female TV dramas should think and adjust at this stage. Among them, the image shaping of female characters plays an important role in European and American female TV dramas. To maintain fresh vitality, it is necessary to ensure the infinite tension and depth of female characters.

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