

An Analysis of the Expression of Chinese Traditional Cultural Elements in American Hollywood Movies

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Keywords: American hollywood movies, Chinese traditional cultural elements, Movies show

Abstract: The movies and television works is an important content of people's life entertainment around the world in the new period, as approved by the popular with the people of the world works, Hollywood films have always been famous for their advanced movies technology and complete expression of movies culture. With the continuous spread of Chinese traditional culture around the world, more and more Chinese traditional cultural elements are integrated into American Hollywood movies, while promoting the development of American Hollywood movies culture, it also provides a new way for the worldwide dissemination and development of Chinese traditional culture, which is of great significance for the development of world cultural exchanges.

1. Introduction

The word "Hollywood" often refers to the American movies industry, which is not a single movies company name, but a representative name of the American movies industry. Hollywood is located in the west coast of the United States, California, Los Angeles suburb of a geographical location, also known as Hollywood, most of the United States movies entertainment companies are concentrated in this, which also makes Hollywood gradually become the United States movies industry and movies stars gathering place. After years of development, under the positive influence of the rapid development of American movies industry, Hollywood has become the birthplace of global fashion and the center of global music movies industry. It has the world's top entertainment industry and represents the highest level of global fashion. It not only gathers the influential movies production companies in the current world, such as Dreamworks, Disney, 20th century fox, Universal pictures, WB, etc., but also the entry of RCAJIVE Interscope Records, which together make Hollywood become the center of the world movies industry. Hollywood movies are made by within the scope of Hollywood's top movies, film and television works, its advanced with Hollywood movies industry system of movies technology, Wall Street's powerful capital support and excellent movies culture, has been widely recognized around the world. It has become the subject of imitation and learning by movies companies all over the world, which has played a huge role in promoting the development of film and television industry worldwide.

Hollywood movies are able to occupy such an important position in the cultural history in the world of movies, the main reason is one of the Hollywood movies extensive cultural elements into, it integrates the excellent traditional culture of the world into the movies, with the rest of the world of movies viewers to form strong cultural resonance, thus received the recognition from the world movies fans. In recent years, with the extensive spread and development of Chinese traditional cultural elements in the world, people around the world have increasingly recognized Chinese culture. Chinese traditional culture contains the national spirit and integrity of the Chinese nation, which has been deposited for five thousand years. It is an important embodiment of the national spirit of the Chinese nation. The expression of traditional Chinese cultural elements in American Hollywood movies is also gradually increasing, which can be reflected in the construction of Hollywood. Opened in May 1927 in Hollywood, the Chinese theater has become one of the most important scenic spots in Hollywood. Up to now, 173 world-renowned movies stars have left their handprints and footprints in the 69-foot bronze theater front yard constructed with Chinese art, which has become a major feature of Hollywood scenic spots.

2. Misinterpretation and Correct Interpretation of Chinese Traditional Cultural Elements in Hollywood Movies

2.1 Misinterpretation of Chinese Traditional Cultural Elements in Hollywood Movies

First, the misinterpretation of characters in traditional Chinese cultural elements. As an important part of traditional Chinese culture, the character image directly shows the great integrity and cultural spirit of the Chinese people. However, in the expression of Chinese traditional cultural elements in Hollywood movies, there are still misinterpretations of Chinese traditional cultural figures. For example, Hua Mulan is a hardworking, brave, filial and strong woman who joined the army on behalf of her father and promoted the traditional Chinese virtues of “diligence”, “filial piety” and “virtue”. While in the Hollywood animated movie *Mulan* made by Disney, Hua Mulan is portrayed as a typical western woman who is lively, enthusiastic and dares to pursue personal happiness. This is a misunderstanding of the characters in traditional Chinese cultural elements. The root cause of this phenomenon is mainly caused by cultural difference and insufficient cultural cognition. Under different cultural thinking perspectives, the directors and scriptwriters of Hollywood movies have insufficient understanding of the humanistic spirit conveyed by the characters in the traditional Chinese cultural elements, which leads to the misinterpretation of the characters in the movies.

Second, the misinterpretation of the cultural spirit in traditional Chinese cultural elements. In the five thousand years of Chinese historical and cultural heritage, there is a unique cultural spirit that is quite different from the world that has been formed. In the Chinese cultural system, more attention is paid to the values of the collective and the family, and individual freedom and the pursuit of individual value come after the values of the collective and the family. This is very different from the personal value and freedom pursued in American culture, which leads to the misinterpretation of the spirit of Chinese traditional culture in the expression of Chinese traditional cultural elements in American Hollywood movies. In the American Hollywood movie “kung fu panda”, film and television production is based on Chinese traditional cultural elements, and a lot of Chinese traditional culture is integrated into the film, such as Chinese kung fu and Chinese traditional Confucianism and Taoism, so that the whole work contains strong Chinese cultural atmosphere. In this movie, the misinterpretation of the spirit of Chinese culture is reflected in the protagonist Po, who regards freedom and individual heroism as the hero's image positioning, and there is the situation of shifting liang liang's position in the shaping of cultural spirit. The cause of this cultural misreading is the difference of cultural value thinking between different countries.

2.2 Positive Interpretation of Chinese Traditional Cultural Elements in Hollywood Films

In recent years, with the extensive spread of Chinese traditional culture in the world, the misinterpretation of the expression of Chinese traditional cultural elements in Hollywood movies has gradually decreased, and the cognition of Chinese traditional cultural elements and cultural spirit has gradually improved. As Hollywood movie “Mummy 3”, in this shadow product photography, Hollywood's film and television personnel had to visit China, in order to have in-depth understanding and investigation of the Great Wall and the core culture of movie characters of Qin Shihuang. The movie was shot in HengDian world studios of ZheJiang province, China. The cultural products of the Qin Shihuang period were largely integrated into the film works, making them the main cultural embodiment in the film works.

3. Presentation and Expression of Traditional Chinese Cultural Elements -- Aquaman as an Example

Aquaman is an action fantasy movie produced by Warner Bros. in December 2018, which directed by Chinese-American director Wen Ziren. This movie integrates a large number of Chinese traditional cultural elements and Chinese humor, which is one of the Hollywood films and TV works that present and express Chinese traditional cultural elements clearly in recent years. In the movie Aquaman, Chinese traditional cultural elements are mainly expressed in two aspects: One is

the expression of the struggle between ethics and theocracy; The second is the expression of hero against authority.

3.1 Ethical Expression of Theocratic Struggle

In the inheritance and development of Chinese traditional culture, the confrontation between ethics and theocracy has always been one of the enduring topics, which is an important embodiment of the Chinese nation's courage to fight and unyielding national spirit, and an important epitome of Chinese traditional cultural elements. In the American Hollywood movie Aquaman, the spirit of traditional Chinese culture is fully displayed. The protagonist Arthur's mother fell in love and married a lighthouse keeper because she resisted political marriage, violating the law of Atlantis and being exiled. In the process of pacification of the sea and land war, the protagonist Arthur did not fear difficulties and challenges, and realized the maintenance of peace and the protection of his family. This is exactly the same as the concept of ethical struggle against theocracy advocated in traditional Chinese culture, and highly coincident with the story idea of splitting mountains to save mothers in traditional Chinese cultural works. In the story of Chinese traditional culture, both the hero Chen Xiang in the literary work Lotus Lantern and the Erlang god Yang Jian in the film and television cultural work Lotus Lantern forward are grandly challenging theocracy for the realization of ethical value.

3.2 Expression of Hero Against Authority

Heroism is also an important part of Chinese traditional culture, and hero's confrontation with authority is also an important embodiment of the spirit of the culture of unafraid of power in Chinese traditional culture. In the American Hollywood movie Aquaman, the main line is also launched with the hero against the authority. The hero Arthur, for the peace between the sea and the land, resolutely challenged the Atlantis of the sea. After a struggle, he still persevered and successfully organized the war between the sea and the land. The main plot line of Aquaman coincides with the allusions of Dayu's control of the waters in Chinese traditional culture. Both of them were ordered at the moment of danger, faced with great challenges and pressure, and launched a heroic struggle against authority. For the safety of the people in the world and under the pressure of the tribal leaders, Aayu finally realized his ideal and became a great hero of the Chinese nation, promoting the great change of the Chinese nation.

4. Conclusion

American Hollywood movies are the core of the world film and television industry. The integration and expression of Chinese traditional cultural elements in their films can not only promote the development and progress of American Hollywood film and television culture industry, but also provide a way for the dissemination and development of Chinese traditional culture in the world. The organic combination of the two is of great significance to the development of American film industry and Chinese cultural industry. It is an inevitable way for the worldwide development of Hollywood movies and Chinese traditional culture.

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