

Analysis and Application of Black Humor in American Literature

Chen Binjie

Zhengzhou University of Industrial Technology, School of Foreign Languages, 451100, Henan, China

Keywords: American literature; Black humor; Analysis and research

Abstract: The concept of black humor has been constantly improved. The so-called "black humor" is use seemingly absurd, ugly, cruel and dark "black" things to express positive social awareness. Black humor is also called black comedy. With the continuous development of American literature, black humor has gradually developed into a social expression method of education. Mark Twain's black humor is a very representative and influential literary representative. Combining the typical works of American literature, this paper makes an analysis and research on the "black humor" in American literature.

1. Introduction

"Black humor" is an important literary genre that emerged from the United States in the 1960s. As one of the most important emerging literary genres, it has exerted a profound influence on the world literary world. In the 1920s, a French surrealist writer, Andre Breton, wrote a book called the collected works of black humor. In the 1960s, in the American literary world, many writers presented similar writing styles: Uni-dimensional character, intentionally separated characters and feelings, funny and grotesque, unusual treatment of tragic materials, scattered and separated narrative structure; A sober awareness of the unreliability of reality and detached wait-and-see; Imitation, ridicule, etc. They caught the attention of readers and critics. In 1965, Bruce Jay Friedman, an American writer, compiled the works of 12 writers with black humor style published in American newspapers since the 1960s into a small book, which was entitled "black humor". These writers had no assembly, no association, no common program or manifesto, but their works appeared in the American literary world in a similar way. In the same year, the American critic Nick burka published his article "deadly humor", which explicitly referred to this kind of writers as "black humor". Thus, the modernist literary school named after "black humor" was born in America. Although the development of this literary genre is not smooth, but its far-reaching impact, there are still many works continue to emerge. So far, it has been widely used in literature, drama, film and television, singing and dancing, and has been deeply developed. Ba-sheller is one of the earliest representative writers of black humor. Black humor was a milestone in the creation of British and American literature at that time. Take the short story collection "black humor" by American writer fieldsman as an example. It USES absurd techniques to express the painful and horrible world and satirizes the society. The concept of "black humor" was first proposed by the writer Conrad nickle-back. "Black humor" is not widely recognized and accepted from the very beginning. Just like the journey of innovation and innovation, black humor literature was not recognized by the literary circle at the very beginning. It was gradually recognized after a period of questioning and criticism. The study of black humor is deep and its concept is improving. The so-called black humor is to use seemingly absurd, ugly, cruel and dark "black" things to express positive social awareness. Therefore, black humor is also called black comedy. With the continuous development of British and American literature, black humor has gradually developed into a social expression method of education. Mark Twain's black humor is a very representative and influential literary representative. In modern society, black humor has seen more development and innovation. It is not only used in literature, but also in TV and film works. Modern society has shown great recognition of black humor, which is attributed to the innovation of the earliest literary creation.

2. An analysis of the characterization techniques of "black humor" in British and American literary works

2.1 Sarcasm that is both implicit and sharp

Humor satire is the representative characteristic of black humor. It has a smile, but it is the most tragic smile, tragic smile. The irony of black humor is not the general irony. Its ironic artistic treatment is only to express a deep, strong, strong emotion and cognition. It is this distinctive expression of humor that gives the reader a deep feeling. At the same time, by means of humor and satire, the invisible consciousness in the heart is transformed into a tangible image, and the subjectivity is transformed into an objective expression, while the author turns himself into a third party on the sidelines. It is this third person's perspective that makes the center of literature more real. Take George Orwell's 1984. In the novel, the autocratic government puts the "virgin" in charge of the literary editor, which not only satirizes the darkness of politics, but also satirizes the self-deceiving people. In addition, the story of Winston, the hero of 1984, is very ironic in itself. In the novel, Winston works in an environment where "war is peace, freedom is slavery, and ignorance is power." The protagonist is destroyed in such an environmental background, the final issued by his nose on both sides of the tears with alcohol. But nothing. Everything is fine. The fight is over. He overcame himself. He loves big brother. The dialogue itself is a great irony, a ridiculous and absurd scene that makes the reader laugh and sympathize with the host. Mark Twain is also a very representative American writer. In his literary works, there is a large amount of artistic treatment of black humor, and his witty and sharp satirical language is called the biggest highlight in the novel. For example, Huck and Tom have opposite life experiences, but their life outcomes are beyond people's understanding. That was the great irony of education at the time.

2.2 Anti-traditional hero image

Anti-traditional literary characters are a beautiful scenery in American literary works. The characters' spiritual world tends to be divided, and they become "anti-heroes" with double colors of tragicomedy. Through their ridiculous words and deeds, they instill social reality and express the author's views on social issues. Antiheroes are often creepy people with odd behavior and strange ideas. In traditional literature, heroes who are consistent in character, tall in image, firm in belief, strong in perseverance and great in talent are replaced by some ridiculous and humble "anti-heroes". The protagonist or serious naive, or arrogant, or despicable shameless. "Black humor" literature is based on the anti-traditional absurd, funny characters to shock the reader's eyes. For example, in 1984, Winston, the protagonist, lives a miserable life and finally betrays his lover and himself. Winston in the body to see a flesh-and-blood modern man, let every modern man have to reflect on whether they are equally ridiculous. Kurt Vonnegut's the fifth slaughterhouse is a typical work of black humor. The novel's owner, father-in-law Billy Pilgrim, was captured as a prisoner when he joined the army. He fled back to China and married an ugly woman from a rich family. The whole story is full of fantasy imagination, the story is more absurd and unruly. In the hero's body can not find a realistic decent hero shadow.

3. The figure of speech often uses Metaphor and Exaggeration

Metaphor and exaggeration are useful artistic techniques of the "black humor" school. Humor started as a medical term and has since been used to describe temperament and temperament. In modern times, humor is used to describe the subject's witty and meaningful wisdom. From the perspective of literary creation, humor is a kind of mixed feeling produced when the sense of comedy is restricted and the sense of nobility. Conventional humor is often the process of fighting the ugliness and stupidity of the world with wisdom and achieving happiness and relaxation. The literature of "black humor" is against traditional humor, and the key lies in the ingenious application of the relation between metamorphosis reality and metamorphosis psychology. Tropes and exaggerations are common expressions of black humor, as illustrated by the description of Winston's work environment in 1984: "behind Winston, the voice from the tel-screen still babbling

on about pig iron production and the over-fulfil of the ninth three-year plan. The tel-screen can receive and transmit simultaneously. Any sound Winston made that was a little louder than the whisper of a very low voice could be picked up by it. Moreover, as long as he remained within the sight of the plate, he could see his movements as well as his voice. Of course, there's no way to know if you're being watched at any given time. Just how often, and by what arrangement, the mind receives someone's line is anyone's guess. You can even imagine that they have been monitoring everyone from beginning to end. They can connect to your line whenever they want. You can only live on the assumption that -- from what is already your instinctive habit -- you already live on the assumption that every sound you make, every sound someone hears, every movement you make, unless in the dark, carefully observed.

4. The humorous "fallacy" in humor

Absurdity is the prominent content of "black humor" in American literature. Absurd, helpless wry smile, and despair, great joy and great sorrow are its unique emotional model. The tragedy lies in the character's struggle finally have no alternative to accept. In society, people are like naked Kings, each running for fame and fortune. Black humor is like the simple child who points out that the king has no clothes, presenting the ugly appearance of the world to the public. At first, most readers scoffed at the king's ignorance. This is the fallacy of "black humor," the magic of art. Support the story with bizarre fallacies. It's a fallacy, but in a certain literary context it makes sense and it makes sense. Tragedy consists in a moment of absurdity. Fallacies are widely used in literature. The most distinctive fallacy in 1984 is that "war is peace, freedom is slavery, and ignorance is power." It seems a fallacy but can not tell where the fallacy. Ambivalence is a common technique for expressing fallacy. Therefore, Orwell's 1984 is his classic work, which has great inspiration for later literature. Another example: the plot design of catch-22, in which a person dies and lives again and again, is also the biggest fallacy, but we do not know whether it is the author's fallacy or the social fallacy. It is on the basis of the fallacy that the story of the novel can proceed smoothly. All the poor and the rich, the good and the evil, the weak and the strong, oppose and depend on each other.

5. Conclusion

Although "black humor" has become a popular concept, its specific meaning is still very vague. Friedman, known as the "commander" of black humor, believes that "black humor" is a combination of black things and humorous things in thoughts and emotions: it is both humorous and desperate, and it contains gloomy emotions in humor, and it can also make laughter in despair. Nick burka, who is known as a theorist of "black humor", believes that "black humor" has the characteristics of morbid and morbid. American scholar alderman believes that "black humor" is a comedy that "juxtaposes pain and joy, whimsical facts and unevenly calm reactions, cruelty and tenderness. It demands a certain distance from the despair it recognizes; It seems capable of treating accidents, setbacks and atrocities with the indifference of a clown. "Black" is the opposite of light and joy. It refers to the pathological characteristics of thoughts and emotions, namely gloom and depression, sadness and pain and despair. It is an objective reality. Humor is the satire and ridicule of objective reality. When morbid emotions are combined with traditional humor, they reflect bitterness, anger and cynicism. "Black humor" writers create a ridiculous and terrible world according to the real living environment, to expose the absurdity and ugliness of the real world. They feel sad and desperate to the real world, so they have to vent their pain and despair through cynical sarcasm and ridicule. Some people say that "black humor" is a literary form that USES comedy form to express the tragic content under the condition of despair. Black humor is the comedy of despair, the humor of the gallows, the humor of the fatal sting. In a word, it can be regarded as a kind of "despairing humor".

References

- [1] Qin Chengdu; The origin of American black humorous novels and its realistic significance [J]; Journal of Chengdu university (education science edition); 08, 2008.
- [2] Xian keno. Xiaoping-go; Exploration and reflection on the realistic significance of American black humorous novels [J]; Journal of Changsha university; 01, 2008.
- [3] Lang hongli, The artistic style of black humorous literature [J]; Journal of Anshan Normal University; 01, 2005.
- [4] Ling Honda,Hun Guying;The Transitional Context of Black Humor Discourse-A Case Study of Catch-22 discourse [J]. Frontier economy and culture; 01, 2009.
- [5] Gen juping; Nu Hue and Healer's Comparative Study on Black Humor [J]; A Mountain; 06, 2012.
- [6] Liu baoqing. The Rise of Humor [D]. East China normal university 2006