

# *Research on Language Arts of English and American Literature Translated Works from Cross-cultural Perspective*

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**Abstract:** As one of the mainstream literatures in the world, English and American literature has great influence on the development of world culture. However, due to language differences, many works cannot fully show the charm of the works themselves when they are translated. Based on the background of the world's multicultural co-development and synergy, in order to promote the integration of Chinese and foreign cultural exchanges and common development, this paper, based on the cross-cultural perspective, examines the language art, related characteristics and appreciation principles of the translated works of English and American literature, and draws the corresponding conclusions for reference.

## **1. Introduction**

Language is an important foundation for the development of literature, and different languages have the charm of their own culture. Literary works are the mapping of different times, social backgrounds and humanistic landscapes. Appreciating the language arts in literary works of different languages can help readers understand the emotions and philosophies expressed in the literary works, which is helpful for promoting the communication between different cultures.

## **2. The significance of language art in English and American literature translation works based on cross-cultural perspective**

With the development of multiculturalism in the world and the increase in the frequency of exchanges between countries, cultural development and integration has become an inevitable trend of development. However, due to the differences in language and customs among different cultures, readers often fail to fully understand the emotions and charms contained in literary works due to wrong language translation or lack of understanding of local customs in the process of appreciating literary works of other countries. Take English and American literature as an example, as one of the world's mainstream literature, there are many influential literary works. The study of language art in the translated works of English and American literature has a positive influence on improving literary literacy, understanding other cultures and feeling the differences between different cultures. Firstly, from the perspective of improving literary literacy, analysing the language arts shown in the

translated works of English and American literature can help readers better learn the expressions of the English language, deepen their understanding of the literary works, and improve their own level of literary appreciation. Secondly, from the point of view of understanding other cultures, there are big differences between Chinese culture and western culture, and by deepening the understanding of the contents of literary works, it can effectively help readers know the traditional customs of other cultures and the artistic expression of language, and then deepen their understanding of the culture to which the literary works belong. From the point of view of cultural differences, Chinese literature is based on the development and creation of China's 5,000 years of history, while British and American literature is mainly based on the development and creation of the myths and legends of Ancient Rome and Ancient Greece. Therefore, the appreciation of literary works can better help readers understand the differences between the origins of different cultures, which is helpful to promote the exchange and integration of different cultures [1].

### 3. The Origin of Language Arts in English and American Literature

British and American literature originates from ancient Greco-Roman mythology and Christian culture. Ancient Greco-Roman mythology is an important cornerstone throughout the development of Western culture and literature. Most of the English and American literary works have inherited the spirit and culture of ancient Greco-Roman mythology. From the point of view of characterisation, the characters in ancient Greco-Roman mythology have provided a lot of character prototypes for British and American literature. For example, one of the masterpieces of Western drama, *Oedipus Rex*, is based on ancient Greek myths and legends. From the perspective of emotional expression, in ancient Greco-Roman mythology, gods with powerful energy also show negative emotions such as anger, aggressiveness, jealousy, etc. Based on the emotional expression of the characters, authors tend to give the subsequent plot a dismal fate that meets the shortcomings of the characters. It can be said that the portrayal of characters in Western literature tends to suggest the subsequent destiny of the characters through their personalities. And through the analysis of British and American literature, it is not difficult to find that in British and American literature, no matter whether the character's personality is passionate, pessimistic or positive and optimistic, we can find the relevant character archetypes or mythological events from the ancient Greco-Roman mythology. This shows that ancient Greco-Roman mythology is one of the creative sources for the development of English and American literature.

Another origin of language arts in British and American literature is Christian culture. As one of the three major religions in the world, Christianity has had a profound influence on Western history and culture. The Bible, as a collection of Christian religious teachings and literary works, has had a great influence on the development of Western cultural thought and Western literature. In the process of literary creation, the author's thoughts and perceptions are conveyed to the readers through language expression. As the most influential Christian doctrine in the West, the influence of the Bible on Western literature is unavoidable, and many writers base their literary creations on the stories, characters and storylines in the Bible. From the perspective of language art, only after familiarising themselves with the relevant contents of the Bible can readers truly understand the true emotions expressed by the authors in their literary works. Especially in the expression of British and American literature, many authors like to give things a certain attribute to metaphorical special events and episodes, for example, in the "Hebrew Songs", the author will be the Bible's allegory is implied in things, in which a metaphor for personal aspirations. In addition, there are also many authors who like to achieve the criticism and satire on the social phenomena and the things of truth, goodness, beauty and ugliness by indirectly quoting the allusions in the Bible when they are creating their works [2].

#### 4. Characteristics and Appreciation Principles of Language Arts in English and American Literary Works

It is not difficult to find out the characteristics of language expression in English and American literature. The language art in English and American literature mainly embodies two characteristics: dramatic monologue and originating from reality but higher than reality. Dramatic monologue, as the most commonly used language expression in English and American literature, has become an indispensable part of English and American literature. The appearance of dramatic monologue can be traced back to the end of the 19th century, in the poet Thornberry's work "The Song of the Knight and the Roundhead". In the classic literary work "Lord Rockefeller Sixty Years Later" written by Tennyson, the author maximises the linguistic appeal of dramatic monologue through the use of vivid and imaginative language descriptions, which were widely circulated as soon as the work appeared. Subsequently, dramatic monologue as a mode of language expression has been widely spread. From the perspective of literary creation, dramatic monologue is a way of language description that separates character image and character language in literary creation, so that readers can clearly feel the author's true thoughts and feelings behind the character language, and more directly convey the author's attitude and views on things through emotional resonance.

Originating from the reality and higher than the reality is the typical literary characteristics demonstrated by the English and American literature. Many writers, when expressing their feelings, often take real events or popular myths and legends as their representations, and express their views by giving different destinies to the characters. Especially according to the historical and cultural background of the time, the history of the western countries was changing a lot, and the reform movement happened frequently. Many writers and poets expressed their irony and dissatisfaction to the historical changes and social events at that time through literary creation. Therefore, in the process of appreciating English and American literature, it is very important to understand the background of the creation of the work and the historical changes at that time. As a medium for authors to express their feelings and opinions, literary works can be said to be originated from reality, while the feelings expressed in them are spiritual expressions above reality.

Under the cross-cultural perspective, there are three principles to be followed in the appreciation of English and American literature, namely: respect for cultural differences, respect for the differences of the times, and respect for linguistic differences. First of all, respecting cultural differences means that because literary works are influenced by the local regional culture and historical development, the expression and language characteristics will be different from the national cultural habits in the process of creation. Therefore, in the process of appreciating literary works, readers should fully respect the cultural differences between different cultures. Secondly, respecting the differences of times means that since literary works are the mapping of social backgrounds, most of them contain the spirit of the times and social phenomena, and many of them are quite different from the present social concepts, so in the process of appreciation, readers should fully respect the cultural differences expressed in different times. Finally, respect for linguistic differences refers to the fact that because there are large linguistic differences in the habits of use and ways of expression between different languages, in the process of appreciation, readers should not be limited to the direct translation of literary works, but should be integrated with the perspective of literary expression, in-depth excavation of the linguistic art expressed in their works [3].

## 5. Methods of Appreciating Language Arts in English and American Literary Works from the Cross-cultural Perspective

### 5.1 Cultural development perspective

The language art in English and American literary works should be appreciated from the perspective of cultural development when it is explored under the cross-cultural perspective. Based on the origin of English and American literary works, readers can start from the perspective of myths and legends when appreciating the works. Ancient Greek and Roman myths, as an important origin of Western literature, have a profound influence on the whole Western culture. Therefore, in the early stage of the development of British and American literature, many authors would choose to use ancient Greek and Roman myths as the material for the creation of literary works. For example, the creation of the western literary work "Homer's epic" was inspired by myths and legends. Based on their own understanding of the myths and legends, the authors made artistic processing and cutting on this basis, and then created a far-reaching work. From a cultural point of view, the biggest difference between British and American literature and Chinese literature lies in the cultural difference. Our ancient literature is mostly based on our ancient myths, for example, in our myths, human beings are created by Nuwa. In ancient Greek and Roman mythology, human beings were created by Prometheus who used mud to create life when he stole fire from the sky. It can be seen that different cultural origins give different literary works unique cultural charms, so when reading English and American literary works should be appreciated from the perspective of cultural development.

### 5.2 Expression

From the perspective of expression, the differences between English and American literary works and Chinese literary works in the same period mainly stem from the differences in language expression. Synthesise the differences and similarities between literary works in different cultural backgrounds in the same period, China's ancient literary works are influenced by the social thought at that time, in the expression of words, more than borrowing things, borrowing things to send thoughts and other implicit ways of expression to express the author's own feelings. In the western British and American literature, influenced by western drama and poetry, British and American literature is used to use dramatic conflict and dramatic expression to reflect the author's point of view on things. Therefore, in the process of appreciating English and American literature, readers should deepen their understanding of Western drama, so that they can deeply understand the connotation of the works under the contradictions and conflicts. In addition, influenced by the language, British and American literature tends to use a more down-to-earth language to directly describe the truth, while many literary works in the process of translation may be biased due to language differences in the expression, readers need to identify according to the actual situation.

### 5.3 Linguistic Thinking

From the perspective of linguistic thinking, due to the differences in language expression habits between English and American literature, authors often like to make a lot of padding in the beginning of the work in the creative process. Many readers in the process of reading British and American literary works, often also feel obscure and difficult to understand the beginning part of the work. The main reason for this phenomenon is that the western literary works in the process of language expression pay more attention to the logic of the text, so in the process of language description is often mixed with the author's narrative logic. For example, in the work "The

"Everlasting Spring of the Deer Park", the author uses the expression of gradual progression to portray the characters in the opening chapter. From a holistic perspective, readers can also feel the whole growth process of the deer and the emotional changes of the character through the author's language description.

#### 5.4 Language and emotion perspective

From the perspective of language and emotion, language and emotion are the most influential factors in the creation process of literary works. Therefore, when readers appreciate English and American literature, they can start from the perspective of language and emotion, through understanding the profound emotion expressed in the text, combining with the background of the time when the work was created, and feeling the actual emotion and viewpoints that the author wants to express. For example, combining with the western cultural background at that time, under the background of war, many theatre works will express the author's disgust for war and hope for peace. In the context of reform, many literary works will express the author's views on the reform movement and the unyielding spirit of resistance. For example, in the western work "Romeo and Juliet", the author fully embodies the author's irony and criticism of the western social background at that time through the expression of the emotions of the protagonists and the dramatic changes in the fate of both characters. Therefore, in the process of appreciation, readers need to deeply understand the background of the creation of the literary works, in order to better understand the language art expressed in the works of English and American literature [4].

#### 6. Conclusion

To sum up, in the process of appreciating English and American literary works, readers should fully respect the differences between different cultures, different social backgrounds and different languages, and deeply understand the emotions and opinions expressed in the works from the perspectives of cultural development, expression, linguistic thinking and linguistic emotions.

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