

Research on Female Identity Design in the Western Chinese Literature Works

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Abstract — objective: Through the discussion of the development of Chinese literature in different periods, the creation of different female identity, the purpose is to reveal the role of the creation of female identity in the development of Chinese literature. **Methods:** Discuss by using the method of comparison and analysis. **Process:** By reading the article carefully, to clarify the American Chinese women writers of the identity confusion process and integration trend. **Results & Analysis:** The design of different female identity brings readers different perspectives, which has certain academic significance and social significance. **Conclusion:** The development history of Chinese women and the present situation of the research on Chinese American literature, reveal the important position of female images in the article.

Keywords - Chinese American women's literature; identity seeking; female image

I. INTRODUCTION

After a hundred years of development, Chinese American literature has made remarkable achievements. At the same time, in the majority of Chinese American authors' joint efforts, the female image in the works has their own style but also has particular characteristics. This phenomenon greatly influences U.S.A society. Facing the pressure of westerners, the white and male, the Chinese America women are rough and full of thorn. Experienced a hundred years of vicissitudes, the Chinese America women in the works is becoming conscious in the inquiry of self-identity. With the number of Chinese women and Chinese families in the United States for the first time, the number of Chinese men and women gradually changed. Identity is an eternal theme in literary creation. For Chinese authors in the dual culture background, the identity problem is very important. In the 1970s, with the prosperity of Chinese American literature, modern Chinese American feminist literature opens up its own new area[1].

In order to find out how the Chinese writers have found and reflect on the Chinese female images, we must understand the image of this kind of women. The description of the Chinese female hero in American literature reveals the dual dilemma of Chinese women in American society in the face of gender and race. The authors' consciousness and the full of vitality of the female images in different writers' novels are unique in their own. Therefore, we are trying to analyze the female images to dialysis the world. It's meaningful to analyze the survival and development of Chinese ethnic groups and women's ethnic groups. It allows us to better understand the differences and contradictions between the two cultures, to help us to choose and discard, in order to seek the integration of Chinese and Western culture and the common prosperity of the corresponding efforts.

First, this paper reveals the important status of female images in the text, combining the development history of Chinese women and the present situation of the research on

Chinese American literature. Secondly, it gives a brief summary of the definition of Chinese American literature and its development course. Then according to the time sequence of three stages, the characteristics and the evolution of female images in different periods are discussed in this paper.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF CHINESE LITERATURE WORKS

A. *Current Status of Chinese Female Literature in the Contemporary United States*

American contemporary Chinese female literature refers to in the western post under the context of artistic creation. Chinese female writers in their own ethnic culture and the traditional combination of Western classical literature, the specific historical circumstances, from the personal experience of Chinese women and the creation of rich women's consciousness, female experience, female writing literature system. Chinese female literature in the contemporary United States is undoubtedly an independent and self-contained emerging discipline, which opened up a new field of American literature and criticism, and made an indelible contribution to the development and prosperity of the Chinese American and Asian Studies, the Chinese American literature and Asian literature. Lin Yingmin, a famous Chinese American literature research expert, was summarized: "When I do a comparison between the Chinese men and women's work, I have found three surprising facts: first, the number of women writers is more; second, the women writers wrote more; third, the work of female writers is more real" [2].

B. *Identification*

As a term, "identity" is first applied to the analysis of psychology. Identity is a personal and social relation in the development of a healthy personality, it is a person to a certain social values and life style recognition and

conversion, and it is hidden in the subconscious of the individual, with unity and continuity.

Seeking identity has become a hot topic of contemporary literature. In the United States, the United States, which is in the double edge of race and gender, is an American woman who has become the focus of Chinese American women writers[3].

For human beings, psychological and spiritual dependence and mutual assistance is needed. Therefore, the sense of belonging to the cultural identity is a natural appeal to people's spiritual peace and security. We have been called the Chinese American as a multiple identity, which is a major feature of Chinese literature, and has two characteristics of the culture. So what is the concept of authentic American identity? The United States is an immigrant country; the United States of America's identity has always been associated with the culture, geography, and the times.

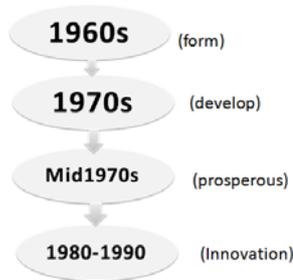


Figure1. The developing period of Chinese American Literature

C. *The Woman Warrior* Written by Maxine Hong Kingston

It's no doubt that Kingston is the most influential figures in the Chinese American Writers Group since the late 70s of 20th century, and she is considered to be the leader of Asian American literature.

The *Woman Warrior* is the Chinese American writer Maxine Hong Kingston's first novel issued in 1976, winning the year's National Book Critics Circle Award as a non-fiction book. It transcends traditional Initiation novels in style by illustrating women's growth process through five individual stories. In a totally fresh view, Kingston interprets women's growth experiences as emancipating from patriarchal restraint, obtaining financial independence, breaking mental bondage, gaining personal freedom, and realizing eventually the women's self-surpass in psychology[4].

(1) *Mulution by Kingston's Own Experience as a Chinese-American Woman*

Maxine Hong Kingston was born in California in 1940. As a child, she helped a lot in her family's laundry. She was busy going to English school during the day and going to Chinese school at night. When she studied in University of California at Berkeley, she experienced through the students' movement.

More importantly, she was awarded a bachelor's degree for English literature in 1962 and also won a teacher's

certificate in 1965 which was quite special at that time when it was considered perfectly justified for women to be in the teaching profession. Kingston did teach in the secondary school and business school in California and Hawaii.

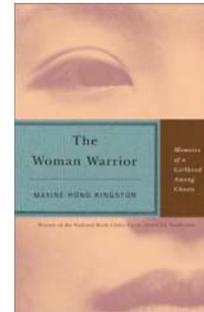


Figure 2. *The Woman Warrior* written by Maxine Hong Kingston

As a Chinese-American writer Kingston keeps on all the way concerning about Chinese-American women's existence and destiny, expressing their rights to speak from "aphasia" and confusion of thinking. She is also eager to expect and seek the identity for Chinese-American women accepted by American society. So in *The Woman Warrior* Maxine Hong Kingston composes a series of Chinese women's images to express her best wishes that the Chinese-American women can communicate equally and live harmoniously with the American native people[5-6].

(2) *The image of Women in the Woman Warrior*

Maxine Hong Kingston is closely related to the racial equality and gender equality, which is caused by the movement of the popular literature market. *The Woman Warrior* describes a woman try to find herself with great encourage and determination under the Chinese patriarchal tradition and the mainstream of American Society. If the story of China emphatically to Kingston's imagination, then part of the American story emphatically in Kingston in the United States growing practical experience. Throughout the two parts, Kingston as a child from the imagination and reality, Chinese tradition and the American Society of Chinese Americans, always to explore the self perception, that is, what is the Chinese American, as a Chinese American means deep connotation[7].

In fact, the confusion of Kingston and other writers about identity touches the essence of American culture. As a result, they are looking for a process of self-identity which is reflected in the process of complex cultural exchanges, they use the essence of Chinese traditional culture to enrich their American identity.

For the Chinese American female writers, writing is a process to face, discover and create their cultural identity. So their writing showed the same from the status of the alienation of segmentation into fusion problem-solving repositioning, began to actively self-creation and non-negative racial origin. The communication between self and the other is an effective way to strengthen the declaration of the racial theme - the multi - cultural context.

Maxine Hong Kingston and Amy Tan take the difference strategy to write and re build the United States experience,

emphasizing the importance of differences in American culture, actively participated in cultural construction rather than sticking to the contemporary Chinese American who was excluded from alienation of stereotyped image, and this stance pick war American culture and construct their own identity[8].

D. *Express New Identity*

Chinese American women are the wisdom and unique group of women in the world, as each unique individual, women in the social integration of their own to insist on and independent of the true self. We may not be able to define exactly what the Chinese women should have, because we can't go beyond the times and circumstances, but at least we can give them a self-expanding space, so that they can leave an image of women in the long river of history, even if they have been trying to use the mirror to see the world[9].

Although the Chinese American literature is a cross cultural collision and cross product, but it also presents a distinct personality and characteristics. Because of the special life experience and social status of Chinese American, most of the Chinese American women writers have multiple cultural identity and visual field, so that they have a strong sense of culture on the whole, they are mostly aware of the multiple cultures, national attributes and the status of the other. So they consider their own existence as an opportunity to focus on the unique life experience and perspective on the Chinese ethnic groups in the cross cultural impact of life and the fate and life choice.

III. GETTING A VIEW OF FEMALE STATUS THROUGH MODERN CHINESE AMERICAN WOMEN'S LITERATURE

A. *Women's image reflects the problem of women*

(1) The mother-daughter relationship

The mother-daughter relationship is a prominent problem in the Chinese American literature. In the view of feminism, this relationship is the biggest influence on the growth of women. The mother has a profound influence on the development of children's personality, especially her daughter, because of the same sex, whether it is the same sex or sex, mother and daughter's feelings are generally more profound. As a daughter, she is often influenced by the mother, even if the adult, or can't get rid of the shadow of the mother, headed for the same path of the mother.

The second wave of women's movement in the rise of the 20th century, the United States feminist are committed to the maternal discourse of the traditional mining, saving and reconstruction. Feminist theorists generally believe that the relationship between mother and daughter and the mother of the relationship is the central issue of feminist theory. Feminist writers and critics also believe that the two themes in all stages of women's literature, the role of the mother and daughter relationship of literary works because of their large number and was given the "maternal literature" stare, as a special literary genre to study.

But after all, the study of the relationship between mother and daughter, after all, is the product of the second wave of

the women's movement in the white as the center and the tendency to the middle class. The white middle class women are the spokesman for all women. In order to reverse this situation, a minority of women who have devoted themselves to the inner race politics and strive to develop independent feminist studies. The creation and criticism of the minority groups in the maternal literature made important contributions to the profound changes of the meaning.

Chinese women have to face the differences between the two generations and the great differences between Chinese and Western cultures, and their blood vessels are mixed with Chinese traditional culture and western modern civilization. Both from the fierce conflict to the relative balance, and continue to move towards new contradictions and new integration. Mother daughter relationship has become one of the important themes of Chinese American literature, which is closely related to the formation of the Chinese female consciousness.

B. *The Sexual Relationship*

Chinese traditional values that women think that women are inferior to men in both innate physiological or psychological rather than excellent male. The idea of not only men are superior to women deny the value of women, and women caused derogatory to the self - image. Because of the influence of traditional gender stereotypes, women are still required to take the family as the most important, women must play the role of a good wife, which is the main mechanism for the construction of society, and a woman's world is her home.

In a relationship, especially the relationship between husband and wife is subordinate, and women are always victims and disadvantaged. Gender relations as a social existence and development of the inevitable problems, also placed in front of our Chinese female image.

C. *Results and Analysis*

(1) The construction of Chinese Women's Unique Culture Identity

Gender relations as a social existence and development of the inevitable problems, also placed in front of our Chinese female image. As a whole, the development of the subject consciousness of the female as a whole, the development of the subject consciousness is generally through three stages: free nature, self-consciousness and self-empowerment. Chinese American women is no exception, regardless of the first generation immigrants born in the United States of Chinese American women, they between or indirectly accepted education or influence in Chinese traditional culture, learning from the Chinese to the traditions and customs of the inheritance. At the same time, they are burdened with the success of the expectations and the pressure of survival, they must be skilled in the lives of the Western rules and skills, and eventually become a good representative of the Chinese and the Americans stand on the same stage to show themselves as a model.

(2) The significance of female identity in Chinese American Literature

In the United States was born, grew up and received education in the Chinese, because of their birth place, the education and even all the cultural acquisition process in the United States. So they may be willing to remain in a passive or non-conscious manner or to maintain a certain understanding, but their facial features and physical characteristics of the Chinese cultural background, which makes them the face of the white men, they are not accepted as Americans, and was identified as "foreigners". The Chinese culture in the Chinese traditional culture and the United States is in a dilemma between the realities of life, all show that the United States has to face a cultural identity of the crisis, in the two cultures to make their own value judgment, a choice to obtain recognition.

The American mainstream society is a kind of gender based on the racial discrimination and prejudice against the Chinese. By the sex of the Chinese people, the Chinese border and Chinese culture are changed, which makes the Chinese people have been experiencing the living experience of the culture. Therefore, in Chinese literary works, the construction of identity should be the construction of Chinese identity, and then reconstruct the image of Chinese identity, and then re define American and American history, in the history of the history of the United States in the United States, so that Chinese women in the United States to obtain equal national identity and a wide range of social identity. The construction of female identity in Chinese American literature is an effective way to self-empowerment, to change the social and political situation and to get equal rights.

IV. CONCLUSION

The Chinese feminist literature is using the best method to establish a tradition of their ethnic groups, the "edge" of the mainstream, to fight for real equality, to achieve a harmonious coexistence of diverse coexistence. The complex relationships between gender, class, and race are not only related to the comprehensive understanding of female identity, but also to the understanding of women's oppression. As a woman's identity, gender identity is not the only one. This is because women are not only a gender, but also the identity of a class and a variety of other people, such as identity. Women's problems are not just a gender issue, but the gender issues are often intertwined with class, racial, cultural and religious issues, which are not only interrelated but not mutually. The Chinese feminist literature and criticism is based on the exploration and the difference of the road to explore their own development.

In fact, for the Chinese female writers, there is no kind of culture can really constitute their identity. By mixing the two languages, they also rip two languages and cultural authority. Chinese female writers through the text, expressed in consultation between the two cultures to establish a cultural identity is not attributable to the identity of the effort, they have demonstrated the conflicts and contradictions of the

identity of the ethnic and gender identity, which also produced a new identity. Through the boundaries of the blur of ethnicity and gender, they have been shown to have an unlimited future in the development of their work as a number of ethnic and gender identity. Chinese American writers insist on improving their own unique culture by themselves, so as not to be lost in the conflict between the two cultures. Living in the middle position, it is not necessary to separate from the inherent contradictions will be multiple attributes and cultural rift can be used cultural bridge replaced. Two kind of culture will not affect to there is the opposite, not you or me, but the overall. Chinese American writers can freely walk in the multiple cultural attributes, and not to build a wall to cut two kinds of culture, but in the construction of a cultural link.

The voices and experiences of Chinese American writers have opened the door for us to observe the American society, the Chinese world and the women's life. Into the door, we see not only the fragrance of women sweet smile and Chinese culture, as a woman more, minority and Chinese style behind the symbols represent the bitterness and suffering. Different female images imply different destiny, different ways of fighting are also speak of a lot of living conditions, the growth and change of Chinese women also want to dig and think from this variety of characters.

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