

Research on Female Images in Hemingway's Novels

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Abstract. As one of the most prominent American writers in the 20th century, Hemingway shaped many eternal "tough guy" images in his novels. However, the fact that he also created many female images in his novels is usually ignored. The female images in Hemingway's novels are divided into the traditional female images, the conscious female images and the open female images. This paper presents a typical case of the three female figures, and analyzes the forming causes of different types of female figures in order to provide reference for the relevant researchers.

Introduction

Ernest Miller Hemingway is an American writer who is very familiar with Chinese readers. The "tough guy" images in his novels have permeated among the people. However, conventional states that female characters are not common in his novels. For example, there was none female images in his representative novel *The Old Man and the Sea*. In fact, Hemingway's novels created a lot of different female images. Hemingway's writing is always able to transcend their gender identity, from the female perspective to observe the feelings of things, reflecting women's inner feelings. In the image of the great man who takes the responsibility of the publicity of the man, Hemingway is also showing sympathy for women from time to time. These women can be roughly divided into three categories: the traditional women, the conscious women and the open women. This paper attempts to analyze the basic characteristics of the different kinds of female images and give the forming causes of them, like the social background and the author's life in order to provide some references for the researchers of Hemingway's works.

Female Images in Hemingway's Novels

Female figures in Hemingway's Novels can be divided into three categories. They are the traditional female figures, the conscious female figures and the open female figures.

Traditional Female Figures. The traditional female is the woman who totally depends on male. Catherine Barkley in one of the Hemingway's novel named *Farewell to Arms* is a typical traditional woman. Catherine has all the features of the traditional female: good, gentle, obedient, easy-going, considerate, loyal love. Her love and obedience to the hero Henry has reached the extreme, she often said to Henry, "you want me to do what I do" and "wherever you and whenever you go, I will go with you". In order to take care of Henry in the hospital, often work overtime to night; she in order not to let Henry worry, until Henry in a strong request to tell him the fact of pregnancy; in the way to go to Switzerland, Catherine, Henry regardless of pregnancy is still rowing; in the sense that he may die from childbirth, Catherine is worried that Henry did not eat breakfast. Catherine fulfilled her highest realm of love that is the two sides to achieve the unity of the spirit and the flesh. Catherine pays not to request Henry has anything in return, she is enjoying her pay of happiness and happiness, willing to serve as the men's accessories. In the patriarchal society, the mainstream consciousness of the traditional culture is not only the man who wants to conquer the woman's body, but also to conquer the woman's thought, and deprive the female as an independent person. Since Catherine fell in love with Henry, she has been to Henry's consciousness as the standard. Without her independent consciousness, she said to Henry that "I am your shadow. I will do what you want me to do. I will say what you want me to say." Catherine didn't have her own independent consciousness, completely controlled by the consciousness of Henry with pleasure. Catherine is the

traditional moral concept and the mainstream culture of the traditional female. She was attractive, gentle, considerate, and independent on man.

Conscious Female Figures. The conscious female is the woman who is independent in thought but is dependent on male in her life. The heroine of *The Cat in the Rain* is a conscious female image. *The Cat in the Rain* describes a story of a young American couple who were in the tourism in Italia. The young American woman, after her marriage, was lonely and empty, and found a cat in the rain in the hotel. She then produced a protection of the cat away from the wind and rain, with the cat to send a lonely idea. She said to her husband George, "I need a cat. I'm going to be a cat now." However, George is indifferent to her proposal, but buried in a book. "If I keep my hair up, can you be a good idea," she said. George's answer is still no. He said: "I like you now." American woman said: "I'll back her hair comb and tight and smooth, tie a knot in the back of the head; I want to a cat to sit on my knee, I touched it, it is the hum of the call; I want to eat with my own silver; I point a candle; I want to some new clothes." The side of the hotel, the boss heard this conversation, good hearted to catch the cat, gave the American wife. The American wife is full of gratitude for the hotel owner. The story is very simple, but it also has a profound implication. The American wife has with traditional women had different performance. She was no longer confined to family, but is actively involved in the tourist husband; she was no longer fully affiliated to her husband, but made many of his inner thoughts. These ideas do not exist in the consciousness of the traditional women. They showed the urgent need for the awakening of women's Liberation and equality of men and women. And, of course, the United States is just the beginning of the awakening of women. She was traveling with her husband, but did not go out of the dance, bars and other social occasions; she put forward a lot of inner thoughts, but did not take any practical action; she was full of gratitude to the hotel owner, but also just stayed at the level of gratitude. In the novel *The Cat in the Rain*, the American wife represents the image that has the initial female dependent consciousness.

Open Female Figures. The open female is the woman who has independent thought and independent behaviors. With the gradual disintegration of traditional social values, women enjoy more rights and freedom. Their thoughts and actions become more liberated and began to wear short skirts, short hair even had unmarried cohabitation. Women's life in the society has become more and more complex, so it is called "open women". Hemingway described the female characters often have an open, innovative and unconventional personality. They are often seen as representative of the open females, because they have the courage to pursue personal ideal and abandon the traditional habits and customs, does not meet the hypocrisy of love life, a bold attempt to sex freedom and pay more attention to the quality of the spiritual life. This open female is a pioneer in the social life. It is difficult to be accepted by the public and therefore determines the outcome of their life can often be counterproductive, bitter and sad. Usually, the independent economy is the basis of the independent behaviors. *The Sun Also Rises* is a saga novel of Hemingway. The heroine Brett Ashley is a real open woman. Compared to the American wife in *The Cat in the Rain*, Brett Ashley's ideas were all put into practice. In the dress, she changed the traditional women's clothing loose, "wearing a knitted Jersey and a Scotland tweed skirt, sweater made her whole body. No doubt"; in the hair, she doesn't have long hair, but "hair back, like a boy"; in behavior. On, she is different from the traditional female, but out of the house, in bars, dance, sound and loud, many men laugh fun flirting, indulge in alcohol abuse; sexual love, she opposed the traditional concept of loyalty and obedience to women. Faced with the husband-to-be named Jack who deprived of sexual capacity in the war, she flatly refused and the idea of Jack together, said: "I will have sex with others. I'll never change". She adept in several men, captured a man's heart with beauty, and had sexual relations. It has brought great suffering to the many men. Of course, Brett rebellious characteristics are not born. She experienced the First World War and gradually depressed.

Forming Causes of Three Female Images in Hemingway's Novels

This paper presents a typical case of the three female figures. In fact, the three female figures are formed by the social background and related to the author's life experience. This section will

explore the forming causes of the traditional female images, the conscious female images and the open female images.

Forming Causes of Traditional Female Figures. In the long history of the development of human society, with the establishment of private ownership, men and women are mainly engaged in the production of social material to meet the human existence. The male occupy the space of social life and the center of the society, whereas women are permanently rejection in the social space. Rights and discourse are always symbiotic, men in the political, economic and economic rights make them easily to seize the right to talk about the culture, they have to create their own interests by law and religion, etc., to consolidate the male as the center, women attached to men. They established a set of consistent with the patriarchal culture of moral concept and value system, enable women to reconcile herself to the identity of, consciously male as the center of the patriarchal values, ethics and morality internalization as its own code of conduct, and not their own consciousness and demand. Hemingway's mother Grace hopes Hemingway like a father to become a noble character, brave man of authority. Hemingway was born three years, has been dressed as a girl, long hair and with sister wearing the same fluffy, lace dress, wearing fancy hat, keep long hair, until Ernest Hemingway at the age of seven to cut. Hemingway's father Edmund often led Hemingway hunting, fishing, cultivation of Hemingway as men of courage and indomitable spirit. Edmund for fear of his wife Grace and cowardice that Hemingway's consciousness to the male to lose the dignity of terrible, vowing to in the life of men and women showing authority, women were only allowed to appear in the image of the traditional. The background and life experience together created Hemingway's view of women, and also created many traditional female images in his works.

Forming Causes of Conscious Female Figures. The First World War was the first time worldwide massive slaughter in the history of mankind. It has brought the incalculable disaster. War not only took the lives of millions of people, destroyed the people's homes, but also ruthlessly destroyed the traditional moral values, the value system, the most important is with the collapse of the old moral values, and patriarchal culture began to decline. As soon as the human entered into twentieth Century, some philosophers have begun to feel the old cultural traditions and moral values. With the deepening of the industrial revolution in the United States, sustained economic development, women began in thought, they gradually break the shackles of traditional moral ideas and value judgments, no longer believe in women to mothers and the woman is obedience to her husband. But some women only take a small step, in the mind has awakened, but in action cannot be further truly independent. The main reason is that they are not able to be truly independent. Without the economy's independence, it is impossible to have a real personality. Although she was aware of the female independence, she can only be in a deep contradiction between thought and behaviors. She had the envy of the attitude for the women, who abandoned the traditional habits. However, she couldn't smoke, drink and participate in social occasions due to the dependent economy.

Forming Causes of Open Female Figures. With the United States of America's industrial revolution developing continuously in 1920s, a variety of new machines continue to emerge and the economy continues to develop. The use of machines has greatly reduced the physical differences between men and women. Many American women walk out of their homes, move to the community, and get involved in the job. Women in the economy have gained a relatively independent status, began to demand in social identity, political power, life style has the same position with men. In action, they began to abandon the traditional habits of life, to abandon long skirts, long hair, wearing short skirts, short hair, and smoking and drinking, access to a variety of social occasions, and strive to pursue true. During this period, Freud's thought "instinct is to promote individual behavior of the internal power" also deeply influenced American society. Many women began to no longer wear tight underwear, and male unmarried cohabitation, began to constantly update their sexual partners, began to unbridled pursuit of "sex freedom" and "sex pleasure". Hemingway's life is the era of female consciousness gradually be conscious of his life is filled with many pursuit of individual personality and sexual desire of women. These are the sources of the new female images in Hemingway's novels. Women broke the traditional concept of

moral culture constraint on their own, and no longer meet on the role as wife and mother, but require the equality between men and women, the liberation of individuality and freedom of marriage. They wanted to enjoy the same rights as men, so they imitated men, wore men's clothes, and broke into men's field of activity.

Conclusion

Hemingway's works is known for the tough guys. From the initial *Nick's story* to the end *The Old Man and the Sea*, he created a lot of vivid images of the male. However, Hemingway's novels also include a wide variety of female images. They can be broadly divided into three categories: the traditional type, the conscious type and the open type. With carefully analysis of Hemingway's works, we will find that the female images in Hemingway's works are different and conform to the social background. These female images show that Hemingway had a keen insight and thorough thinking of women.

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