

Analysis on Literary Narrative Force of Male Images Aiming to Female Tragedy in *Madame Bovary*

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Abstract. Female tragedy, as a part of patriarchal discourse, is not only the existence of an exit for female to release their muffled desires, but also a structural existence. Behind the female tragedy lies the construction of human by discourse. By creating the existence of others to cover the vacancy in real world, the subject in the discourse structure was willing to accept the reconstruction of discourse, and becomes the puppet of others. This thesis took *Madame Bovary* for instance and analyzed male role functions in patriarchal female tragedy, which pointed out that the male role was both the agent and scapegoat of patriarchy in female tragedy.

Introduction

In the patriarchal society, females were subordinate marginal figures by their gender. They can't participate in social activities and what they only can do is to depend on man. Therefore, women were always regarded as passive, meek and submissive, while men were considered as dominant, powerful and commanding image. For men, to the woman who depend on them, they always created the female image according to their desires, which suppressed women will. And for women, from their birth to death, they were adjusting their behaviors to match the female image. Nevertheless, female tragedy was a punishment for refusing the female image by patriarchy, and the most direct punisher is man, so man is the indispensable role in female tragedy.

The Gene of Female Tragedy in Patriarchal Society

In general, male superiority is an accurate description of the status and relationship between men and women in patriarchal society. Patriarchal culture centered on male authority, which improve male status in sexual relationships by belittling female social status and value. Hence, man was regarded as the center of the whole society and world. He made morality, ethic and law based on his own benefits, which form a whole cultural structure for constraining and controlling women. Relatively, women are silent, aphasic, without discourse right, and on the margin of patriarchal society. As procreation tools, wives, they were considered as secondary, male private property which likes livestock and house. With nothing, the dignity of women had all gone. As a part of patrimony, woman initially belonged to her father, and then her husband. The female nature of life was materialized, so women were not equivalent to men.

Charles Bovary and His Father

Nominal Husband

As a husband, no matter what, Charles tried his best to satisfy Emma in daily life. For Emma's health, he moved the house to a strange city. In the matters of money, he never opposed or showed discontent to Emma's luxury consumption, but satisfied her as far as possible. However, on the spiritual level, he knew nothing about his wife, not to mention meeting his wife's need of romantic love. Therefore, they were lack of soul communication, one is realistic, and the other is visional.

Like his father, Charles is not a nominal husband, but a meaningless father. The fact that Emma's death and betray gave him double impact physically and mentally, and the following financial issue made him out of breath. Without his wife, he still had his daughter Belt. He should be strong for his daughter and kept on living their life. But in one afternoon, full of grief and miss of his dad wife, Charles slipped away. Compared with the pain of begging for life of Emma, Charles's death was so normal that he made a child losing both her mother and father.

Indifferent and Selfish Father

Different from Charles's stiffness, his father, an army surgeon, was a handsome man in his early years. After marriage, he should played the husband role in his family, while he ate, drunk, slept and rode on his wife's property, letting his wife shoulder his responsibility as a husband and man. So the husband role of old Bovary was nominal in his family. Apparently, he was not qualified husband.

Besides an unqualified husband, old Bovary is also an unqualified father. He wanted to educate his child a strong body in Spartan way, maybe the idea is good. However, he ignored the inborn softhearted character of a child. Otherwise, he was indifferent in the cultural education of his son, just let him wander around the country. Until 12 years old of his son, at his wife's request, he allowed his child to attend school. In all, old Bovary was a meaningless husband and father. There is no doubt, in some level, he influenced his son deeply and the creation of Charles Bovary and Madame Bovary.

Fallen Lovers

Finally, without hesitation, Emma died for swallowing arsenic. It is Homais's arsenic, Rodolphe and Leon's ruthlessness, Leroux's oppress, Bovary's incompetence, and even Flaubert himself that make Emma's death. In 1856, in Flaubert's letter to his friend, I had prejudice during composing Madame Bovary. In mine, it was just a proposition. What I loved wasn't in it'. Certainly, it is a proposition that if you know his character, you will know that he accused himself first. He found that even he is just like the incompetent male role in his work. Only death can let Emma leave this trite and dirty world forever. Only death is can release Emma, and only suicide can save Emma who he sympathized, save the last dignity in her life. And the death of Emma also indicated the loss of Flaubert's male world.

Literary Narrative Force of Male Images Aiming to Female Tragedy

Actors and Tools in Emma's Love

Dramatic Actors

Rodolphe who always keep contact with many women, is a romantic veteran. He immediately found that Mr. Bovary and Mrs. Bovary were strange bedfellows, and knew that Emma yearning for love, just like the fish longing for water in the kitchen. He thought he could gain her heart only by blandishments. However, he was wrong. Although from the result, he gained Emma. But in Emma's heart, he was just a substitute for avoiding loneliness. In a condescending manner like noble lady, Emma gave Rodolphe a pelted horsewhip with silver handle, the seal with love in heart, baldric and cigar box of viscount. Rodolphe felt disgraced by these presents, so he refused some of them. But in the insistence of Emma, he had to accept. In order to following the nurturing love of lady, Emma was in heavy debt, and then in death.

Emotional Tools

The meet in theater with Leon is a love tragedy. She felt' female voice in her ears seems like the echo of her heart, her obsessed image and one part of her life. Considering her dull marriage and her disgusting love with Rodolphe, the past pain and lonely scenes appears in front of her eyes. Therefore, at the moment she met Leon again; she was strongly attracted, which ignited her desire to love. While Leon is a dull and flabby man without heroism, resolution and courage, he is not the brave knight in Emma's dream who is full of passion, gentleness and poetics, like an angle.

The Visional Subject of Female Tragedy

Emma is a woman full of imagination, romantics and passion. However, her life was unsatisfied. A husband without any masculinity, changeless and boring life, all these made her irritable, depressive and painful. Therefore, she pinned all her hope of beautiful life on illusory imagination. Freud has said that a happy person never imagine, the person who is not be satisfied will imagine. The motivation of imagination is the unmet desire, so every single imagination is a correct of an unsatisfied thing'. This imagination ability of Emma was named as "Bovarysme" by France critic Jules-Gautier, which was defined as "person has the ability to imagine himself into other figure". He believed that human tend to make their life doubling and end the real himself to turn into the one he wanted to be by imagination. For transcending the helpless life, Emma not only imagined her as a noble and warm lady, but also beautified the image for Rodolphe and Leon, made them into her ideal love tools and soul puppet in real world.

Summary

From the view of male function in female tragedy, we reunderstand the relationship between male and female and the fact of their existence in patriarchy. In patriarchy, men were listed in the strong and considered as occupants of political power and economic benefits. For women, they were ruler and maker of their tragedy. But the fact covered in the strong male identity was little known. Madame Bovary is the representative work of the most outstanding critical realism novelist Flaubert. The character in this novel is both typical and universal. And the analysis of various characters in Flaubert description can reveal the true value and male role function in tragedy of women under patriarchy. For the influence of patriarchal culture, men and women who live in the history cannot understand themselves and each other's real situation, so they fell into the trap of patriarchy. Flaubert's pen is like a scalpel, which dissect the heroine Elma's all weakness and the ugly phenomenon in our society lucidly.

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