

## On the Authenticity and Artistry of Contemporary Historical Novels

Yejin Lin

Guangxi University for Nationalities, Nanning, Guangxi, China

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**Abstract:** after Experiencing the Transformation of Modern Times and the Changes of the Times in China, the Current Pattern of Literary Creation is Mainly Based on Novel Creation. as an Important Part of the Creation of Contemporary Novels, Historical Novels Can Be Used as a Supplement to the Creative Forms of Contemporary Novels. on the Other Hand, through Historical Novels, Historical Historiography Can Be Drawn through Writers' Writings to Popularize More Historical Knowledge for the Public. Therefore, by Analyzing the Combination of Authenticity and Artistry of Historical Novels, This Paper Makes It More Appealing and Ornamental in the Creation of Contemporary Historical Novels.

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Literature Review

Yuan Yuan Once Believed That in the Development of Chinese Contemporary Historical Novels for More Than 70 Years, Because of the Long-Term Influence of Chinese Revolutionary Realism, the Content of Contemporary Novels Mainly Uses the Grand Historical Narrative as the Artistic Criterion for the Creation of Novels, Ignoring the Narrative Skills. an Important Role in the Novel (Yuan, 2015). Wang Wanhong Discovered through the Study of Ling Li's Historical Novels That She Has Historical Features Such as Historical and Objective Descriptions, and Her Description of Historical Facts is Very Rigorous and Typical in Contemporary Historical Novels (Wang, 2018). Dai Rongli Once Believed That in Contemporary Long Historical Novels, "Sun Yat-Sen" Based on the Historical Historical Basis, through the Rational Imagination to Combine the Artistic and Authenticity of the Novel, Thus Forming a Grand Historical Masterpiece. At the Same Time, through the Combination of Authenticity and Artistry, the Overall Conception and Detailing of Historical Novels Are Centralized and Unified, Which Makes the Novel Description Method Highly Upgraded (Dai, 2013). Fang Wei Once Believed That Excellent Historical and Literary Works Should Be Merged with Historical Authenticity and Historical Artistry, So as to Vividly Optimize the Imagination, Emotional Rendering and Text Description Contained in the Literary Works, So That the Novel is Authentic. the Combination with Art is More Advanced (Fang, 2018). Zhao Xianfeng Once Believed That with the Rapid Development of China's Economy, the Cultural Demand of the Chinese People Has Sprung Up. the Film and Television Dramas Changed from Chinese Contemporary Historical Novels Have Also Appeared on the Screen Frequently. Contemporary Historical Novels Show a Growing Trend. (Zhao, 2015). Li Yangzhi Once Believed That in the Mid-to-Late 1980s, China's History of Contemporary Chinese Literature Had Undergone an Important Historical Writing Structure Change, from the "Gender Feudalism" with Traditional Colors to the "Coexistence of the Two Sexes" under the New Historical Novels, Which Made Contemporary Historical Novels Are Relatively Closely Related in Terms of Gender (Li, 2016). Yuan Qianqian Once Believed That in the Category of Contemporary Literature, Historical Novels Are an Indispensable Important Rule, with the Accumulation and Atmosphere of Historical Culture. in the Process of Contemporary Development of Historical Novels, Because of the Rich Historical Connotation of Historical Novels, Traditional Culture the National Temperament and National Identity Are Unique (Yuan, 2014).

## 1.2 Purpose of Research

In the process of author creation, historical novels always have inherent structural forms and operational laws, which determine the writing style of historical novels and their specific art forms (Zhang, 2014). However, in the transformation of the production mechanism of contemporary historical novels, some writers have the problem of disconnection between authenticity and artistry in the process of historical novel creation, which is not conducive to the development and expansion of contemporary historical novels. In view of this, by analyzing the authenticity and artistic combination of Yao Xueyin and Ling Li's excellent works, it provides some reference for the development of contemporary historical novels.

## 2. The Authenticity of Contemporary Historical Novels

After the founding of New China, Chinese literature entered the stage of contemporary literature history. Modern literary genre works need to adapt to the changes and development of the objective environment, and finally gradually adapt to the new external requirements, and finally form the beginning of the history of contemporary Chinese literature. In the transformation of the history of contemporary Chinese literature, with the long historical novels of the 1950s and 1960s as the representative, the flourishing creation climax began. Although influenced by the national literary policy at the time, the creation results have certain political factors (Ping, 2012). But the most important thing is that many excellent writers have written the historical scrolls of the Chinese revolutionary struggle on paper through the form of long historical novels. It is a unique new manifestation of Chinese novels that combines the new era background with historical style. Yao Xueyin's novel "Li Zicheng", in order to perfect Li Zicheng's character, Mr. Yao Xueyin has studied nearly 40 years to study relevant historical materials. Therefore, in the eyes of a historical novelist, the literary accomplishments must be possessed, and historical facts must be respected. Historical interpretation cannot be distorted. Under the redefinition of the relationship between individual and history by neo-historical theorists, this history is newly interpreted by discovering some neglected places in history, and this new historicalist theory is very useful for the creation of historical works. But from the perspective of Richard Lehan, a professor at the University of California, the New Historian scholars can turn history into a descriptive scene in the process of dissolving history. But in fact, there will be a fragmented history in the process of dissolving history, and this is the flaw of the new historicalist theory. In the process of the development of Chinese contemporary historical novels, there is also a problem of separation from history. Such authors often lack the accumulation of national history and culture in the creation of their works, and extend the history of new historicism without limit, blindly exaggerating and adapting history. Ignoring the limitations of China's specific national conditions, some contemporary historical novels have misplaced characters and the background of the times in the storyline. Under the restriction of breaking through the new historicalism, some authors have innovated and integrated in traditional historical novels, and they contain rich historical authenticity, combined with reasonable artistic processing, so that the authenticity and artistry of literary works have been organically integrated.

In the development of literary works, Lehan believes that related historical works need to respect history itself more, and should use historical facts to objectively describe and trace the traces of history. In the works of contemporary Chinese historical novels, most of the works show the third person description, which reduces the author's subjectivity to history, and makes the works more objective. This relationship between the characters from the perspective of God has existed in ancient Chinese novels and biographies, such as *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, *Journey to the West*, etc. This form of description adds to the historical truth of contemporary historical novels. sense. However, due to the "traveling" type of novels that have emerged in recent years, there have been cases of interventions in the development of historical processes. For example, novels such as "Palace" often use first-person perspectives to portray characters and narratives. The random change of history in this kind of work, through the subjective description of the individual, is the realism of the loss of history of such works. Although the "crossing" novel is very marketable, since

the plot and the storyline are separated from the new historicalist theory, this type of work can only be regarded as an entertainment product. In the narrative process of contemporary historical sales, it is necessary to pay attention to conform to the social environment of the time, and not to deviate from the historical authenticity. Writer Ling Li in "The View of Historical Fiction" mentioned that "writers should know as much as possible about the style of the time, there is a sense of the era, so that they can form a judgment, in the selection of characters, plot or props without making a big mistake."

### 3. The Artistic Nature of Contemporary Historical Novels

Along with the widespread dissemination of popularized film and television works in China in recent years, a large number of contemporary historical novels have been adapted into film and television dramas, but dozens of episodes of TV dramas are bound to be adapted to the plot of the novel. However, the quality of such works is uneven. Some novelists do not have rich historical knowledge and literary qualities, which leads to the expression of real emotions in historical and cultural atmospheres. Taking the popular historical novels as an example, there are problems such as separation from reality and lack of language in scene description, which have not been recognized by mainstream literature. In the process of literary creation of historical novels, the use of words must be rigorous, and the atmosphere created by painstaking efforts may be destroyed. The creation of historical novels not only requires the paving of historical authenticity, but also needs to be embellished in terms of artistry. The artistic embellishment not only refers to various descriptions and depictions, but also takes Yao Xueyin's "Li Zicheng" as an example. In the vernacular, the textual narrative is slightly dotted with the classical Chinese text, which increases the historical sense of the novel. In the content creation, not only the plot is more rationalized, but also in the form of content is not rigid. Another example is the end of the "Drums and Drums", the "Six Twenty-six Articles" promulgated by Xuanye: "Dun Xiaodi to heavy ren, The Duk clan to ZhaoZhao harmony", etc., through the ancient texts in historical facts, the textual reality and art are combined. To make the plot of the novel more tension and appeal.

In the late 1980s, Ling Li's long historical novel, *Juvenile Son*, won the third Mao Dun Literature Award. In the history, the cause of death of Emperor Shunzhi of the Qing Dynasty was quite controversial. However, in the book "Youth of the Son", Ling Li's death for Shunzhi was quite popular among historical scholars. When pursuing the reasons for Shunzhi's being a monk, Ling Li's artistic description also touched the emotional confusion, the failure of political reform, and finally the disappointment of the monk, making the characters more vivid and concrete in the author's pen. In the later reflections of Ling Li's creation, it is said that the origin of Dong E's in the Qing history has been relatively secret, but in order to make his works respect historical facts, he finally recorded the texts in the historian Cheng Heng's "Memoir of Tang Ruowang". It is the record of Shunzhi's sister-in-law and is used in his own works. It can be seen that Ling Li is very knowledgeable in the artistic processing of historical facts in the creation of literary works. As Ling Li said: "In my opinion, historical novels belong to literature, so there must be a sense of history, and literary works also need artistic value and aesthetic value." The boring real history is given to artistic processing, so that The combination of artistry and authenticity can make the creation of contemporary historical novels more contemporary and unique. At the same time, it also has certain reference significance for the development of contemporary historical novels.

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