

A Study of Aesthetic Cognitive Distance in Classical British and American Literature

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Abstract: British and American literature occupies an important position in the world literature, and its classics contain not only profound cultural details, but also many authors' artistic expression of their hometown, motherland, emotion and so on. By studying the aesthetic cognitive distance of the classic British and American literary works, we should constantly improve the aesthetic cognitive ability and cultivate our own aesthetic taste, so as to deeply understand the classical British and American literary works and understand the artistic value of the British and American classic literary works. It can be seen that exploring the aesthetic cognitive distance of classic British and American literature works is of great practical significance..

1. Introduction

Aesthetic cognition, as the basic value consciousness of human being, not only shows whether people have good cognition and reform ability to the world, but also can further enhance their self-consciousness and consciously form the constraint of beauty. Literature is the combination of knowledge and emotion, but also the education of emotion level. In real life, if people only pay attention to the cultivation of knowledge and skills, they may ignore the study of literary and artistic aesthetics, resulting in their own ignorance in understanding beauty, failure of feeling and creating beauty. Even if this person has complicated life skills, we can not say that this person forms a sound personality and achieves great accomplishment, since it is not comprehensive. Therefore, we should realize the existence of aesthetic cognitive distance in reading classic British and American literary works, to deeply understand their artistic value, improve our aesthetic cognition, and promote self-development. Therefore, this paper mainly studies the aesthetic cognitive distance of the classic British and American literature works, and carries out the following analysis.

2. The Significance of the Study on the Aesthetic Cognitive Distance in Classic British and American Literature

2.1. Appreciation of Classic British and American Literature

The content embodied in each literary work is not something simple on the level of words, but shows the author's expression of his own inner feelings, which is also the charm of literary works and other works of art, and is the expression of aesthetic cognitive form. Those who like to read the classics of English and American literature will appreciate the deeper meaning of the works, integrate themselves with the literature, strengthen their own reading experience, and cultivate their own aesthetic cognitive ability[1]. Starting with the characters and situations in the classic British and American literary works and comparing them with other types of art works, we can feel the aesthetic cognitive gap of the classic British and American literary works, and find that this is a different reading experience. It is not only through the image and language pattern in real life, but also through the reader's own rich imagination to get rid of people's fixed image of inherent cognitive thinking, which is also a way to embody aesthetic cognition. If we can deeply understand and feel the pleasant feeling brought to people by this aesthetic cognition, we will deepen the understanding of the classic British and American literary works and shorten the aesthetic cognitive

distance.

2.2. The Formation of Interest in Classic British and American Literature

Any aesthetic activity can not be separated from the participation of people. Only when people themselves have a strong interest in something can they create good works of art. There is no denying that interest is particularly important for the production of works. If literature is a means of learning, it is very beneficial to people's study, then it will unconsciously attract more people's attention and enhance people's interest in literary works. Only in reading and appreciation can we deeply understand the author's creative feelings and thoughts, realize the intrinsic value of literary works, and promote the improvement of people's literary accomplishment and aesthetic cognition. Therefore, aesthetic cognition is not formed passively, but in the environment of freedom and equality, from the unique interests of people, so as to mobilize and activate people's interest in reading classic British and American literary works, and to improve people's aesthetic cognition through reading appreciation to form the aesthetic psychology that makes themselves happy. Aesthetics is not a person's own analysis of the degree of satisfaction of literary works, so people should not blindly analyze the classic Anglo-American literary works, but ignore the experience of the author's creation. Instead, we need to comprehensively dig into the author's experience and background, analyze the uniqueness of classic Anglo-American literary works from different perspectives, and permeate aesthetic cognition into aesthetic taste, which is the cloud cause of aesthetic interest, and the essence of aesthetic cognition.

3. Measures to Reduce the Gap of Aesthetic Cognition in Classic British and American Literature

3.1. Realize the Importance of Reading Aloud

The reading of literary works is the main way to study their contents. Through repeated reading, we can deepen the understanding of the contents of literary works and further enhance our own aesthetic cognitive ability. It's a universal truth that reading is an important way to narrow the aesthetic cognitive gap in classic British and American literature. Along with the increase of reading times, the aesthetic experience of classic English and American literature works is gradually enriched, and the aesthetic cognition is improved day by day[2]. Therefore, people should realize the importance of reading aloud, and then improve their literary achievements, strengthen their understanding and mastery of literary works, ignite their own reading enthusiasm, cultivate their own aesthetic cognition, and promote their own comprehensive ability. For example, in reading the English poet Shelley's Ode to the West Wind, "the fierce west wind, you are the breath of late autumn... Blow on the dull earth! Oh, the wind, if winter comes, will spring be far away?" As shown in figure 1, in order to further understand and taste the thoughts and feelings in the classic British and American literature, we need to understand the background of the creation of this poem. By reading aloud, the reader can feel that this poem implies the hardships of the English people living in the dark society during the period of the British Revolution, and also realize that the author hopes that people should not give up hope and have the courage to fight against reality and lay the foundation for the ultimate victory. Through reading aloud, readers can feel the poet's writing emotion and writing characteristics, and shorten the distance of aesthetic cognition of appreciating it. It can be seen that in real life, people can feel different aesthetic psychology by selecting different classic British and American literary works. Through reading aloud, the aesthetic artistic value of literary works and the unique artistic charm of the characters themselves are realized. This kind of feeling will gradually spread to other aspects, which can improve self-aesthetic cognitive ability, making personality full of charm.



Figure 1 Works of oil painting

3.2. Diligent in Analysis and Thinking

Every literary work contains the author's life experience and inner feelings. For this reason, a further detection of the author's own character characteristic and the thought connotation is essential, which will help to deepen the further understanding to the literary work, and also allows a profound experience to the emotion of the work. Because of the obvious differences in the background of life, the characteristics of the times and the cultural accomplishment, the author of each classic British and American literary work shows different artistic characteristics and aesthetic cognition, which makes the classic British and American literary works richer in content and more diverse in their creative forms[3]. Just like the realism and romanticism in the history of English literature. Realism mainly embodies the experience and observation in real life, which need to be described in combination with the actual life's own appearance, to ensure that the content presented is in accordance with the reality. For example, Fielding and Defoe are typical realistic novelists, whose writing style is simple and clear, and will not be modified with rich rhetoric, which can make the reader feel the real and practical reality. Romanticism, on the contrary, pays attention to the lyricism of words, and the content revolves around the typical characters, while the true emotion is quite opposite to the actual society. For example, Shelley, Blake and other authors, are romantic writers, who, in the expression of literary works, are to describe the situation that does not conform to the real society, but reflect their inner feelings more. Therefore, in the reading of classic British and American literature, we should be good at thinking and analyzing in order to shorten the aesthetic cognitive distance and feel the author's different creative styles, such as table 1.

Table 1 History of English literature

History of English Literature	
Realism	Romanticism
Fielding, Defoe	Shelley, Blake

3.3. Broaden Your Reading Horizons

Literature is not an individual thing. The same goes for aesthetics. Because aesthetics has no utilitarian characteristics, this group characteristic is more prominent, as some authors say, they want to get more people's appreciation on their literary works, want more readers to feel the content

and emotion through their literary works, and also want to form emotional resonance with others and obtain the recognition of others, so that the aesthetic cognition and aesthetic experience can be formed. Different people have their own views and opinions, so any connoisseur hopes to convey his aesthetic experience to others in different ways, and then to obtain the recognition and understanding of others. In the interaction of real life communication, it is necessary to carry out the communication of aesthetic cognition through the way of collective discussion, to be able to keep the nearby people in the classic English and American literature connected, and to create a harmonious atmosphere in the interaction of communication, to get good feedback, to promote the nearby people to maintain an optimistic attitude, to make people feel their own real ideas and to gain their own initial feelings. For example, in the process of discussing Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, people can feel the scene of the hero and the shark fighting each other, as shown in figure 2, applying the way of topic discussion to study people's understanding of western literary value, natural struggle and so on, so as to narrow people's aesthetic cognitive gap and improve people's aesthetic experience and aesthetic feeling.



Figure 2 Cultural and artistic works

4. Conclusion

To sum up, a person's aesthetic cognitive ability and his individual experience has an internal inseparable relationship. We are not born with aesthetic cognitive ability, but acquire it through efforts and extensive practice in reading and appreciating classic literary works. Forming and cultivating aesthetics is a process of attaching great importance to accumulation and practice, which asks for endless practice in the long run. While the process is painstaking, it's worth the try in order to find beauty, feel beauty and experience beauty in profound literary works.

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