

Characteristics of Children's Books in Different Cultural Backgrounds: A Case Study of Chinese and English Children's Books

-----A Case Study of Best-selling Children's Books in China and Britain

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Abstract. In recent years, children's enlightenment education has attracted widespread attention of the society. Their contact with the outside world and their knowledge has great influence on their future growth and development. Children's books are the soil for shaping the future of a nation, and the main way for children to acquire knowledge and understand the history of the country's development besides the classroom. The elements of national culture incorporated in children's books can promote the inheritance and promotion of the excellent culture of the motherland, to enhance the creativity and development of the motherland's young generation better. This paper makes an in-depth analysis of the best-selling children's books in China and Britain, and studies the dissemination of national culture in contemporary children's books.

Introduction

The basic education theory class focuses on the cultivation of children's knowledge and culture and the cultivation of learning ability and thinking. The understanding of the country's development process and the rise and fall of the nation mainly comes from the dissemination of relevant content of national culture with extracurricular reading materials, news and elders in the form of stories. Children's extracurricular readings can popularize the things and knowledge that students have not touched in the classroom, as well as the use and practice of some truths, which can promote the maturity and thinking development of children's thoughts, while different geographical groups have different living habits and education. The spread of national culture in contemporary children's books is of great significance. This article elaborates the national culture in contemporary children's books by combining the best-selling books of China and the United Kingdom as an example to ^[1].

1. The Main Features of Children's Reading

(1) Versatile Reading Interest

Childhood is an important period of human growth. At the same time, childhood is also an important period for personality shaping and personality transformation. Children's aesthetic consciousness, cognitive level and thinking mode will change with their physiological structure. Variety. When children choose children's books, their reading interest will also change. Children may like to read narrative children's books at a certain time. They may suddenly like strong children's books at a certain stage, and may even be possible. I will like different types of children's books at the same stage. Therefore, children have a versatile reading interest.

(2) Lack of Objective Judgment on Children's Books

Because children have significantly higher levels of thinking activity, children can absorb new things in the first place and react quickly to new things. However, when children read children's books, most of them evaluate children's books according to their own subjective consciousness changes, and children's subjective consciousness will be affected by factors such as personality, cognitive level and hobbies. Therefore, after children read children's books, children will implement the creation of children's books according to their own subjective associations and imaginations. Different children reading the same children's book will make a different re-creation of the

children's book content, which leads to different children's different emotional experiences on the same children's book. This shows that children lack the ability to objectively judge children's books.

2. The Importance of Integrating National Culture into Children's Books

The development of a country is difficult and long, and a traditional culture with an excellent nation will not be its own. On the contrary, we will try our best to inherit and carry forward, and continue to innovate in development. Children are the future of the motherland. Children's education in a country determines the development of the country as well as the pattern and trend. Children's books are an indispensable part of children's education. The integration of national culture into children's books is presented in the form of stories, and the content is broad and comprehensive, which can effectively stimulate children's reading interest and seriously feel the profoundness of traditional national culture. Furthermore, it is conducive to the development and progress of traditional culture.

(1) The Influence of Traditional National Culture on Children's Emotional World

A nation's way of speaking and doing things in the classroom reflects the national spirit and fine tradition of national culture. Each nation has its own unique culture, and is maintained and respected by the whole people. The basic education stage is mainly based on moral education. Children's perception of the outside world is almost zero. The training mode of children's education determines the growth direction of children. National culture is a nation's belief, with rich connotations and profound life philosophy. More reading is beneficial to the richness of children's emotional world and helps children's self-confidence.

(2) Enriching the Spiritual World of Children

Although the current education pursues innovation, it is student-oriented and comprehensively develops the overall quality of students. However, in the process of relying on the classroom knowledge, the guidance of teachers in teaching has certain limitations, which hinders the imagination of students to a certain extent and hinders the development of students' spiritual world. Spirit can play a dominating and guiding role in people's actions. A good positive spirit can lead students to do meaningful things, and negative spirit can promote people to produce negative ideas and make foolish acts harmful to themselves or others. A rich and healthy spiritual world is of positive significance to children. In addition to learning in the classroom, it can achieve a rich spiritual world by reading a large number of children's books.

3. The Spreading of National Culture in Contemporary Children's Books

Children's extracurricular books affect their own growth and development. The gold content of children's books determines the future development trend of the country. Children's books are used to popularize traditional culture to children, so that children can be immersed in from an early age and benefit greatly from the edification of national culture.

(1) The Dissemination of Best-Selling Children's Books in China

Chinese traditional culture has a long history with extensiveness and profoundness. National culture is a rich heritage inherited by our ancestors and has long been in the leading position in the world. It contains the national way of thinking, values and codes of conduct. Since 5000 years ago, Confucian ethical culture has been the core of Chinese national culture, and it still affects the way of thinking and behavior of the Chinese nation. Fostering future generations of the motherland from children's books and integrating national culture into children's books can promote children's understanding of Chinese culture and gradually form the spiritual quality with the characteristics of the Chinese nation. There are many nationalities in the Chinese nation, and each nation has its own culture, but it is integrated in different cultures. Generally speaking, it embodies the characteristics of enthusiasm, cheerfulness, kindness and generosity, honesty and trustworthiness, so there are many types of best-selling children's books in China, such as the literary children's book *The Wolf in the Wind* tells the story of Emma, a precious hound, and its thoughts and attitudes towards life. There are many turning points in the article, which can reflect Emma's different thoughts on its own

purpose of life and make readers deeply understand the inevitability of the change of life. Articles can effectively promote the development of children's thinking, understand the meaning of thinking about life, and develop a persistent mental attitude ^[2]. *The Gate of Dreams* is a collection of children's poems, whose author, Wang Lichun, is very talented. His poems are a fresh stream in the field of children's poems and always give people a fresh feeling. On the basis of unique fantasy and childlike aesthetics, his expanding the imagination space makes the works more magnificent, so that readers can easily appreciate the beauty of poetry. It can not only effectively promote children's ability to understand the poetry, but also stimulate children's interest in poetry and cultivate their own sentiments.

(2) The Dissemination Effect of the Best-Selling Books in the UK

British culture differs greatly from ours. They pursue aristocratic hierarchy and pursue liberalism. Under this culture, the British people are characterized by friendship, civilization, humor and arrogance. The main feature of children's books in the United Kingdom is to convey to the readers the rules of change of things and the habits of character formation through the words and deeds of the story hero.

David Walliams published *Gangsta Granny* in 2013 and became the most popular children's book of the year, and still remains among the top ten children's books. This book tells the story of an ordinary boy and his thief grandmother about old age, adventure, stolen jewelry and swimming in the Thames. In 2016, the *World's Worst Children* (the worst children in the world) published by David Walliams entered the annual bestseller list, which consists of ten interesting and vivid stories about ten children with different characteristics. In 2017, *Grandpa's Great Escape* (a great adventure with my grandfather) published by David Walliams became a hot children's book without any suspense. The book tells the story of the protagonist and his grandfather, the former pilot, and the adventure together. David Walliams is one of the UK's hottest authors, with a strong writing ability and a humorous language that is loved by children. David Walliams' books can be sold not only because of its excellent writing, but also because of the integration of national characteristics into children's books, which has a strong educational significance. The national culture contained in the books is respected and advocated by the public and is loved by the public. In addition, David Walliams' book reflects the cultural characteristics of the British, and is conducive to the development of children's civilization, gentleman, humor and willingness to take risks.

There are many best-selling children's books in China and Britain. Because of the cultural differences between the two countries, the best-selling children's books in different countries have their own characteristics. Chinese children's books will intuitively express the theme of the story at the end clearly, so that readers do not need to think and explore too much. While the stories in English children's books generally do not help you to sum up the main thoughts and feelings of the story at the end. They all rely on the reader's subjective thinking. Therefore, the dissemination effect of children's books is also different. Chinese children's way of thinking and imagination have been bound to a certain extent, resulting in the phenomenon that learning and life will suffer greatly because of thinking habits. Many stories are full of ideas and emotions, but they are less enlightening things. The story can broaden children's horizons and enrich their emotional and spiritual world, but it still needs to be improved in terms of training their thinking ability and imagination. English children's book stories are quite different from those in China. English children's books will not give you explicit subjective ideas in the article, but will express the theme in a situational way to test the readers' imagination and thinking ability. Children can broaden their horizons and exercise their own thinking through constant reading ^[3].

4. Conclusion

In summary, the best-selling children's books in China and the UK have different communication effects. Due to the differences in culture between the two countries, and the different writing styles of the authors, it will make readers feel different and get different content from them. The creation of children's books should be avoided in the same way. You can learn from other excellent works in

writing techniques, or innovate the works to keep pace with the times to make children's books diversified and promote the development of children in all aspects.

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