

Assignment 1-3

by Xueyan He

Submission date: 24-Dec-2020 01:00AM (UTC+0000)

Submission ID: 140492498

File name: 20851_Xueyan_He_Assignment_1-3_289521_793609557.docx (43.25K)

Word count: 8245

Character count: 42371

Module 7002

Assignment 1

A Critically annotated bibliography on Postcolonial Criticism

Xueyan He(2000005)

Peter Barry, 'Postmodernism', *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*, 4th ed. (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2017), pp.160-168.

In this chapter, the author mainly discusses Postcolonial criticism which includes background, postcolonial reading, what postcolonial critics do, and at last, he also puts a specific example to explain the theory vividly which makes readers understand his theory quality and effectively.

First and foremost, the scholar introduces the background of Postcolonial criticism. He states three important points totally. Firstly, liberal humanist critics view on literature's behalf that once is universalist's opinion, which is to further determine. Actually, what is universalism in the literary world at that time? There is a timeless and versatile significance in that great literature, and at the same time, we should ignore the differences in culture, society, region, and even nation. In Handy's works, although in his novels, he also directly expresses his attitude to universalism. Just like the author's emphasis, the postcolonial criticism denies universalism, since these situations are described for all of the possible forms of human interaction. Furthermore, According to Frantz Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth*, published in French in 1961 (pp.160), he explains what is 'cultural resistance'. This is a situation for France's Africa empire. A psychiatrist Fanon stresses the 'colonialised' people should look for an identity to reclaim their past. Due to education both in black and white children, they are required to learn the same culture, history, and social progress only in European society. If 'colonialised' people have their apparent past, they will have their own ideology, not only showing in literature. That's the reason why in the book of Edward Said's *Orientalism*(1978), he addresses that one of European cultural tradition of 'Orientalism' which identified the East as 'Other', and inferior to the West(pp.161). In his point, this means the East hide their characteristics like cruelty, sensuality, etc., while the Westerners

do not take them as acknowledge. Meanwhile, the East is full of exotic and mysterious culture, and they have instinctive emotions to determine their actions. But by contrast, the West is affected always by their individual status or circumstance.

In postcolonial reading, the author mainly discusses four aspects. At the most important point, the exotic or immoral 'Other' is non-European's one of the representation awareness. According to the postcolonial writer Yeats's attitude, the Irish poets should need the humble apprenticeship that they can learn their own craft. In my opinion, non-European have their own culture and circumstance, Although they are educated the European culture and their habits are highly similar to them, they should learn and express their own culture, and distinguish this from European. After all, they have their own national character and unconsciously reject the exotic tradition. Secondly, postcolonial criticism also puts the emphasis on language. Just as Stephen Dedalus's opinion in language, he said 'the language in which we are speaking is his before it is mine... My soul frets in the shadow of his language' (Portrait, chapter five). In some postcolonial's eyes, they stress although the colonisers' language has been tainted, it also has its structure. All the languages are changing day by day since other languages are continually affecting, but the core structure is difficult to change, and language is the most powerful weapon to show a national culture. Thirdly, Identity is the third characteristic in postcolonial criticism. For instance, When we are looking back on Yeats, it is not difficult to find out he has double identities. That he not only has the view of coloniser, but colonised as well, so he can write articles in postcolonialist view, which is no doubt. In the author's eyes, an identity like this can explain the situation which postcolonialism brings. From where I understand, I think this situation is very interesting, maybe these colonial writers did not realize their tendency in works themselves, and they always think there is only one identity for them. But the critics can analyze even through their subconscious tendency in their works or life experience. Fourthly, 'cross-cultural' interactions are also an obvious characteristic. We know there exists many writers have a double or hybrid identity, but in the 1980s and 1990s, the attitudes changed. All the colonial literature tends to express mainly Africa or Asian forms to supple European-derived influences. In addition, there are three phrases called 'Adopt', 'Adapt', and 'Adept'. That means the writers have different attitudes to complete their works at different times. At first, they choose universal forms, then they choose the European form to

African, and at last, they tend to express independent ones. This is a process in which the colonial writers have a development in writing. It seems that their ambition is moving from being attached to other culture which used to express themselves. Overall, these are four distinctive characteristics in postcolonial criticism.

In the part of What postcolonial critics do, the author summarizes six points of postcolonial criticism. These theories include the postcolonial criticism reject universalism, examine other cultural representation, show the literature evasive and silent in colonisation and imperialism, emphasize cultural diversity, tend to cultural polyvalency, develop their own postcolonial literature.

At last, in order to facilitate the reader to understand, the author put an example here. This is an essay which is by Edward Said on Jane Austen's Mansfield Park(pp.165). He admits the effect of Said's conclusion and thinks new historicism that comes closer.

In conclusion, postcolonial criticism is based on European culture and look for their own status in history. In the developing process, they have four characteristics that help this kind of literary theory more perfect and refine. Of course, there are many writers and critics who also make a positive contribution to their works. In current and contemporary society, like other literature theories, postcolonial criticism has predominant status in literature.

Module 7002

Assignment 2

A Close Reading and A Critique of Poe's The Tell-Tale Heart

Xueyan He(2000005)

Edgar Allan Poe(1809-1849), was an American poet, novelist, and literary critic in the 19th century, not only was an important figure of American Romanticism but one of the earliest practitioners of the short story in his country.

The reasons why I choose *The Tell-Tale Heart* from him are as follows: Firstly, Allan Poe, as a symbolic writer in the history of American and even the world literature, has a strong identity in the content of his works, which is characterized by fantastic horror and romantic aestheticism. Secondly, Allan Poe's narrative mode, plot conception, and character construction have their own characteristics and have a strong aesthetic effect for readers. Thirdly, I am very interested in Allan Poe and his works, which promotes me to further study in this field.

1. Close reading

Allan Poe writes many excellent works in his life, *The Tell-Tale Heart* is the representative work of his horror short stories.

1.1 Allan Poe's biography

Edgar Allan Poe is famous for his mysterious stories and horror short stories. He is one of the earliest pioneers of American short stories, also regarded as the explorer of detective fiction, and is also known as the originator of science fiction.

Allan Poe was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on January 19, 1809. Both of his parents died when he was very young and was adopted by actors David and Elizabeth "Eliza" Poe. At the University of Virginia, Allan Poe had a brief period of schooling, then dropped out to join the army, leaving old Allen and his wife. In 1827, Allan Poe made a temporary appearance in his writing and published his first book, *Tamerlane and Other Poems*, under the pseudonym of "Bostonian". In 1835, he married his 13-year-old cousin Virginia Clemm. In 1838, *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket* was published and accepted wide attention. In the summer of 1839, Poe became assistant editor of *Burton's gentleman's magazine*. During this period, he published a large number of essays, short stories, and reviews, which enhanced his reputation as a sharp critic. Meanwhile, In January 1845, Poe published his poem *The Raven*, which made him famous for a time. And he died in Baltimore on October 7, 1849.

1.2 Synopsis of *The Tell-Tale Heart*

The short story is about "I" and the old man live together, the old man is not bad, and there is no problem between him and "I". However, according to the old man has the eyes of a vulture, which made me more and more terrible. "I" could not stand it day by day, and finally, "I" decided to kill him. At the same time, I dismembered his body and stuffed it into the floor. "I" thought that everything was perfect and very comfortable in the face of the police's door-to-door inquiries. And then, I even moved a chair and sat boldly on the floor where the old man's body was hidden. But, "I" seems to hear the old man's heartbeat, more and more clear, more and more exciting "my" nerve..... At last, "I" broke down and admitted to the police the fact of killing the old man.

1.3 Background

The Tell-Tale Heart, often considered a classic representative of the horror tales, was first published in January 1843. At that time, Allan Poe's life was very bad, and he was also in poor health. Although he had been offered jobs with great talent, he was soon dismissed for drinking too much. Because he had a good personal relationship with the writer James Russell Lowell, he was invited to contribute regularly to *The Pioneer*, a magazine founded by James. *The Tell-Tale Heart* is the work contributed during this period. In 1845, Allan Poe revised this story again.

1.4 Writing structure

The structure of this short story is divided into three parts in chronological order. Paragraph 1 to paragraph 3: the plan to kill the old man, paragraph 4 to paragraph 7: the process of killing the old man, paragraph 8 to paragraph 10: after killing and to surrender. In these three parts, "my" consciousness is very clear and logical, and the whole mental state is in a state of extreme excitement. In the text, rationality and madness overlap and interweave, in other words, they even interweave in the whole story, forming a complete narrative structure.

1.5 Atmosphere rendering

The case caused by the spiritual eyes happened at midnight and a week of peeping.....Darkness, terror, ugliness, all of these are not only simple and pure expressions but also convey an atmosphere of terror. It exaggerates the whole atmosphere of the short story and aggravates the atmosphere of horror. In this contrast, the description of abnormal psychology can better reflect the psychological characteristics of "I" and show the spiritual world full of complex and subtle.

1.6 Protagonist description

the whole short story is narrated in the first person, which directly describes the psychological activities of "I" in the whole criminal process. From beginning to end, "I" emphasized that I was just a little neurotic, but not mad, and tried to prove that his actions were the result of extreme calm and wisdom. In the characterization of the protagonist, Allan Poe does not express any subjective tendency of praise or derogation, but through the description of the psychological changes, as well as the detailed crime techniques, the author shows the criminal's morbid psychology in a very detailed way, so as to achieve an extremely terrifying effect.

1.7 Significance

In Allan Poe's time, moral preaching was a popular theme. Poe's creative thinking is different from that of mainstream creation. He denies the empty and straightforward moral preaching, and opposes the heavy moral burden on works, thus destroying the artistic effect. Nevertheless, Poe does not exclude the expression of moral concern in his short stories. In *The Tell-Tale Heart*, "I" got rid of the vulture eyes of the old man, but could not escape the heartbeat of the old man, and finally surrendered to the police. Allan Poe's superb creative skills reflect his profound thinking on human nature, survival, morality, and mental state.

2. Critique

The Tell-Tale Heart is not only the representative work of Allan Poe but the classic work of horror tales as well. By focusing on the abnormal psychology and behavior of a cold-blooded murderer, the short story reaches a new peak of terror. Extremely satisfied self-psychology, strong contrast of narrative structure, infective language art, and dark description of the Gothic fiction genre, all of them are closely related to the theme of the writer's creation. Ignoring these linguistic skills will inevitably weaken the aesthetic appreciation and deep understanding of the story.

2.1 Psychology analysis

As mentioned above, *The Tell-Tale Heart* uses the first-person narration, which has a strong sense of substitution and can arouse a high resonance. In this process, "I" repeatedly stressed that he was not mad, which aggravated the readers' negation of mental state, thus making the atmosphere of the whole story even more terrifying. This is a kind of psychological fanatical rationality to control the narrative structure of the story, which increases the exaggeration of the horror atmosphere.

At the beginning of the story, "my nervous is very, very dreadfully." Meanwhile, The protagonist and the old man do not have any resentment, also love him, but why do kill the

old man? It seems that the protagonist is very insecure and does not realize that his murder is wrong. He just tries to calm his inner discomfort. At the same time, the murder makes his mental state very excited. He achieves a kind of psychological self-satisfaction, which brings him great pleasure.

According to Freud, all people have psychological conflicts, and this is the reason why some people finally go to self-destruction. The criminal is very calm, clear, and logical. The old man's vulture eyes made his mind fear. He began to rely on his own fantasy, which led to abnormal murder. However, he has always been unable to escape the fear brought by the subconscious, so he can not get rid of the sound of the heartbeat, and finally completely collapsed. Allan Poe's ending is very exquisite and his settings are very complete. The whole mental state of the criminal, from the beginning to the end, forms a perfect process of psychological development.

2.2 Description of Gothic fiction genre

Gothic novels rose at the end of the 18th century. It got its name because of the subtitle of the first Gothic novel. Its greatest feature is the pursuit of sensory stimulation and fascinating plots. Before Allan Poe, the basic background of Gothic novels was mostly the nervous and frightening supernatural events in Gothic Castle, which gradually became popular in the general public. However, Allan Poe's Gothic short stories have their own distinctive features. He focuses on the distorted human nature in his stories, breaking through the shackles of traditional Gothic novels.

Those mental changes, the possible meaning and connotation of mind, combined with his use of dreamlike structures and the careful words, contributed to Poe's outstanding achievements (Richard Wilbur). If *Masque of Red Death* is still limited to the scene of Gothic Castle, then the scene of *The Tell-Tale Heart* is just a simple bedroom, which completely depends on the psychological changes of the character to promote the development of the story.

The story takes place in the middle of the night, and the room is full of mystery and evil. The dark night can often induce a sense of terror and mystery, and the choice of time also implies the occurrence of tragedy or murder. The dark and oppressive background matches

the distorted soul of the protagonist, and the closed space can make the story show the complicated and subtle spiritual world in such extreme circumstances. At the same time, because of the narrative structure set by one suspense after another, the readers constantly have a terrible feeling and a desire to learn about the follow-up development, which is the essence of Allan Poe's narration.

2.3 Writing language art

In his creation, Poe not only carefully considered the narrative structure of the story but also showed superb language art in the text expression. It is because of this that readers can comprehensively and accurately feel the value of the novel from many aspects.

One is the continuous repetition of words. "I undid the lantern cautiously---oh, so cautiously---cautiously---and I undid it just", The superposition of words and phrases shows the murderer's cautious psychological state and emphasizes his highly sensitive nerves. Also When the murder mistakenly thinks he heard the sound of the heartbeat, "hark! louder! louder! louder!" the murderer can't bear more and more. Obviously, he struggles in great pain, and the mood was extremely chaotic. The second is the capitalization of letters. At the very beginning of the story---"TURE!", which reflects the fact that the protagonist wants to refute most, he has a huge eagerness to prove that he is not a madman. In addition, when it comes to the old man's vulture eyes, the word "Evil Eye" is also used to express an emphasis, which is the most important reason for him to kill people. The third is the italics of letters. "but he had found all in vain. *All in vain*; because..." all in vain here plays the effect of emphasis, and meanwhile, it also shows the protagonist's feeling of stealing joy.

Generally speaking, Allan Poe is a great American short story writer. His works are compact and concise. It is precise because of this that his works can last for a long time and be welcomed by readers.

References

Peter Barry. (2016) *Beginning Theory: An introduction to literary and cultural theory*. 4th edn. Manchester University Press.

Gita Rajan. 'A feminist rereading of Poe's 'The Tell-Tale Heart' ', PLL, pp.283-300.

Pritchard, Hollie. (2003) 'Poe's the tell-tale heart', *The Explicator*, 3(61), pp:144-147.

David James editor, (2020) *Modernism And Close Reading*. Oxford Scholarship Online.

Wikipedia, Edgar Allan Poe. Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edgar_Allan_Poe (Access: 28 November 2020).

Shen Chen, (2013)'An analysis of Allan Poe's Gothic novel *The Tell-Tale Heart* from the perspective of Psychoanalysis', *Youth Literator*, pp:78-80.

Huichao Zhu, (2017)'The psychological analysis of the characters in the heart of leakage from the perspective of iconicity principle', *Journal of Liaoning Institute of Education Administration*, pp:105-110.

Module 7002

Assignment 3

A Feminism Analysis of Charlotte Bronte's "Jane Eyre"

Xueyan He(2000005)

According to Peter Barry's view, the 'Women's Movement' in 1960 was not the beginning of feminism, but it clearly pointed out the problem of women's inequality in society and put forward some concrete solutions. Obviously, up to now, feminist literary criticism is still the product of the feminist movement. In this women's movement, the most prominent expression is literature, which not only publicizes the image of women's freedom and independence but also calls for fighting against the unfair fate and safeguarding their due rights.

Jane Eyre (1847), written by Charlotte Bronte. The main theme of this novel is to resist fate and pursue freedom. Through Jane Eyre's rough life experience, the novel creates a great

female image who dares to fight. That's the reason why *Jane Eyre* is a pivotal novel for feminists, which has been long recognized by modern literary criticism. As everyone knows, *Jane Eyre* has become an epoch-making novel in the history of literature, because Bronte reexamines the women in the patriarchal culture from the perspective of women and discusses how women should realize their self-worth. So I want to discuss this classical literature from feminist perspective, and propose some new enlightenment and understanding to women in contemporary society.

1. Introduction of *Jane Eyre*

This part will briefly introduce *Jane Eyre* literature itself, including the author, main synopsis, and creative background.

1.1 Charlotte Bronte's biography

Charlotte Bronte (1816-1855), a British female writer, Emily Jane Bronte (1847, *Wuthering Heights*) and Anne Bronte (1847, *Agnes Grey*) are her two sisters, they are just Three Bronte Sisters and their novels became classics of English literature.

Charlotte Bronte was born in a poor perpetual curate's home in Yorkshire, northern England. Her mother died of illness at the age of five. His father, who graduated from St. John's College in Cambridge, often taught his children to read. At the age of eight, Charlotte was sent to Clergy Daughters's School at Cowan Bridge in Lancashire. Because of the bad conditions, the two elder sisters died of cold there. In *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte described it with bitterness. Then she returned home to write stories with her two young sisters. In 1847, the three sisters' *Jane Eyre*, *Wuthering Heights*, and *Agnes Grey* came out, which shocked the British literary circle at that time, because the three novels were very excellent, especially *Jane Eyre* of Charlotte.

Unfortunately, the next year, Charlotte's younger brother and sisters died of tuberculosis. Charlotte was deeply shocked. Only when she devoted herself to writing could forget the grief for a while. In August 1849, she finished the novel *Shirley*, which made her gain great success again. After that, she went to London and got to know many writers. Among them, Elizabeth Gaskell became her intimate friend and wrote *The Life of Charlotte Bronte*, which left precious first-hand materials for later generations to study Charlotte.

Like *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte, in her age 39, finally overcame the opposition of her stubborn father and married Arthur Bell Nicholls. But six months later, she was unfortunately infected with a cold, died on March 31, 1855, with an unborn baby.

1.2 Main Synopsis

The novel mainly tells the story of Jane Eyre. She was born in a poor pastor's family, and soon after her parents died, Jane Eyre lived a decade of discrimination and abuse. Later, she was sent to the orphanage.

Life in the orphanage was very harsh, and Jane's best friend, Helen Burns, died of tuberculosis, which hit her deeply. Later, Jane Eyre continued her education here for six years and taught for two years. But because of Miss Temple's departure, Jane Eyre, tired of such a life, came to Thornfield Hall to be a governess for a girl, who is under the age of 10.

One evening, Jane met Mr. Rochester, the owner of the Hall. He was melancholy and moody. At the same time, Jane found Thornfield Hall gloomy and empty and sometimes heard the creepy laughter. Later, Jane and Rochester found themselves attracted to each other, and Jane agreed to his proposal.

Unexpectedly, at the wedding, Jane was informed that Mr. Rochester had been married 15 years ago and that his wife was the madwoman locked on the third floor. Jane left angrily. She lived in the wild, went through hardships, and met St. John. St. John asked Jane to marry him because she was fit to be a missionary's wife. Jane refused, she decided to go back and see Mr. Rochester. She returned to Thornfield Hall and found it in ruins. The madwoman fell from a building and died after arson. Mr. Rochester was also injured and disabled. Jane was so shocked, finally, she married him and lived a happy life of her own.

1.3 Creation background

The creation background mainly includes two parts, one is the social formation and the other is feminism.

1.3.1 Social formation

In the mid-19th century, Britain was in the early stage of the second industrial revolution. With the development of industrialization and the innovation of technology, great changes had taken place in the social structure. At the same time, a large number of progressive thoughts of democratic science had been pouring into society. The realistic literature genre with the background of the times had risen rapidly in Britain.

At that time, the status of women was relatively low. Women did not have the same rights as men, and there were few job opportunities for them. Fearing that the public may discriminate against women and reduced the value of the work itself, Charlotte Bronte even adopts a neutral pseudonym, which is Currer bell. Actually, a large number of excellent female writers had emerged in the British literary world, they wrote rebellious stories from a unique perspective, and there are many inspiring works.

These works include *Jane Eyre*. According to Charlotte's personal experience, including the school she studied in her childhood, being a tutor, etc., all of these had become the source of her inspiration, thus successfully shaped the image of an independent, free and courageous pursuit of love of Jane.

1.3.2 Feminism

In the Victorian era of the 19th century, the development of the industrial age provided opportunities for British employment. The role of men in society was becoming increasingly important, while women's status gradually declined, and their independence consciousness began to wake up. By the end of the 19th century, feminism began to rise and promote the Western women's movement, which had certain political factors. Generally speaking, feminism is women's demand for equality, which claims that women should enjoy the same rights as men in any field of social life. Feminism is the product of the Western women's movement, and feminist literature and literary criticism are also the derivative forms of the Western women's liberation movement.

Jane Eyre is a work created in this environment. Because of Charlotte's growing experience in her childhood, she shaped the character of perseverance, courage, and independence, and wrote it in *Jane Eyre*, which aroused the strong resonance of female readers at that time, and became an important guide to accelerate the feminist movement.

2. The character embodiment of the main female in *Jane Eyre*

There are many important female roles in *Jane Eyre* who have distinctive characters, here three figures are mainly discussed. They are Jane Eyre, Helen Burns, and Bartha Mason.

2.1 Jane Eyre

Jane Eyre is the spiritual figure in the whole book, Her image embodies the main ideas of Feminism.

2.1.1 Feminism spout: resistance consciousness

As mentioned above, Jane Eyre lived in the Victorian era in the 19th century. At that time, it was a popular view that men were superior to women. However, women's resistance to consciousness was gradually awakening. Jane Eyre lost her parents when she was a child, and she was living in Uncle Reed's house. According to the social concept then, Jane should be tolerant and keep silent, but she had a rebellious spirit in her heart. She rebelled against all kinds of injustices in her life. Especially after her uncle died, facing the abuse of her aunt, Mrs. Sarah Reed, and the difficulties of her cousins, John, Eliza, and Georgiana, she openly fought with her cousin and called out "unfair" from the bottom of her heart. As a result, her aunt was afraid of her and later sent her to an orphanage.

The conditions of the orphanage were very bad, and the principal here was also a hypocritical person, it seems that Jane Eyre jumped from one abyss to another. Although there are friends like Helen here, then Helen's death had hit her hard. Under the influence of Miss Temple, she began to calm down, but she also told her friends that they should separate and resist, since as long as the counterattack was strong enough, those bullies would not start again.

After coming to Thornfield Hall, Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester fell in love. But when she knew that Mr. Rochester had been married 15 years ago, she did not choose to endure but left angrily at once. In this era, marriage can be said to be the only guarantee for women's whole life. Many women choose to swallow their anger in order to live with a better husband. However, Jane Eyre had no idea of depending on other people's life. She constantly resisted reality for her own interests and was not compromised at all. Although in later life, she lived a vagrant, extremely hard life, she also had no complaints.

Jane Eyre's sense of resistance does not only appear at a certain stage but from the beginning till the end. When she faces an unfair fate, she actively resists. This sense of resistance is the initial embryonic stage of feminism. Only with the rise of consciousness can there be resistance to action.

2.1.2 Feminism development: pursuit for esteem, independence and freedom

Sinclair Lewis, a famous American writer, once commented that the end of *Jane Eyre* was too satisfactory, even divorced from the social characteristics of women's status in that era. Respect, independence, freedom, Jane Eyre's life, but such a pursuit in a very important position. She argued with reason and stubbornly demanded respect from others and took back discrimination and prejudice. Otherwise, she would reply with a strong attitude. At the same time, she is also very independent, this kind of independence is not only manifested in the economic, but also in the spirit, which is more important, and only after this independence can we have real freedom.

At the beginning of the story, although Jane Eyre is still a child, her performance in the aunt's house and the orphanage has proved that she is a very independent girl, and has been fighting for respect and freedom. From the beginning, the author set Jane Eyre's tragic fate, and traditional British literature often set the ending of such characters as a tragedy. However, Jane Eyre did not abandon herself because of her own experience. Instead, she gave a powerful counterattack to the aristocratic group. For instance, in the orphanage, she saw her friends suffer injustice, so she was so angry that even her fingers trembled, and suggested that they should bravely resist. It was just a radical thought in the book, which promoted the transformation of modern western women's ideology.

The time in Thornfield is the most important plot in the whole book. Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester fall in love. However, Jane Eyre is just an orphan girl who has nothing, while Mr. Rochester has rich wealth and decent social status, and their identities are quite different. From the point of view of the prevailing society at that time, women were the accessories of men, and they could marry such a husband without worry for a lifetime. But in Jane Eyre's mind, her thought was "I care for myself. The more solitary, the more friendless, the more unsustained I am, the more I will respect myself. " (Charlotte Bronte, 2002, p.343.) She understood that only self-respect can win the respect of others, that's why Mr. Rochester loves her so much.

2.1.3 Feminism climax: pursuit for quality and true love

Love is a very significant theme in Jane Eyre's life. Through the view of love, the image of Jane Eyre can be enriched and perfected. However, Jane Eyre met Mr. Rochester and St. John before and after, her attitude towards love was consistent and firm.

As mentioned above, Jane Eyre loved Mr. Rochester very much, not because of his wealth and status, but she really loved him and married him. Before this, Mr. Rochester sent her jewelry and clothes, which she thought were symbols of slavery, so she refused. After finding out that Mr. Rochester had a legal wife for 15 years, she decided to leave him despite knowing that her future life would be extremely difficult. She didn't want to be Mr. Rochester's lover not the wife only, since she thought that love was equal, that is to say, the status and spirit between she and Mr. Rochester were really equal.

When she was down and out, Jane met St. John. She did not accept St. John's proposal, even though her life was extremely harsh. Furthermore, when she heard that St. John was willing to marry her only because she was suitable to be a missionary's wife, she felt embarrassed and insulted. Jane Eyre knew what she really wanted, instead of aggrieved herself, so she returned to Thornfield Hall to see Mr. Rochester again.

At the end of the story, Mr. Rochester's property was destroyed and he became disabled. Surprisingly, Jane Eyre was willing to go forward, continue to love him, and accepted him. It is not the pursuit of fame and wealth, but the pursuit of spiritual equality between the two sides.

Although the ideology and behavior of Jane Eyre were not in conformity with the times, she dared to challenge the traditional love and marriage view, also pursue simultaneous interpreting of love. So, she can say with pride, that I am a free woman, I am an independent woman. However, from the perspective of the times, Jane Eyre married Mr. Rochester with a disability is not a very good destination, but in fact, she is a real harvest of happiness.

2.2 Helen Burns

In fact, the character Helen Burns is based on Charlotte's sisters. Because of poverty, Charlotte and her two sisters were sent to clergy daughters' school, where the conditions were very hard. The children were infected with a cold one after another, and Charlotte's two sisters were also unfortunately infected before and after. Later, Charlotte watched them die, which left a deep mark on Charlotte, and Helen Burns is actually a character created by her sister Maria.

In *Jane Eyre*, Helen Burns and Jane Eyre are two completely distinctive characters, and they form a sharp contrast. Helen was obedient to God and thought that all suffering was God's arrangement. Therefore, in the face of all oppression and bullying, she chose the attitude of obedience and endurance. Actually, Helen is a typical female image in the Victorian era. They believe that everyone is sinful from birth. Only by enduring all kinds of sufferings and constantly repenting can he be saved by God. Therefore, Helen is actually a representation of a tragic female character at that time. Through her description, Charlotte highlights Jane Eyre's rebellious spirit. And at the same time, it also makes readers clearly realize the tragedy caused by this kind of indomitable character.

2.3 Bertha Mason

When depicting Thornfield Hall, Charlotte adopts the Gothic style to write. In the beginning, Charlotte also creates a sense of mystery and suspense, which stimulates the readers' interest. And in this castle, the most mysterious is the locked room on the third floor and the madwoman who often makes strange laughter in the room.

This is Mr. Rochester's wife, Bertha Mason, who was also a Victorian victim. She never had the right to speak or even consciously speak for herself. She just passively accepted the arrangement to marry Mr. Rochester, which was from her father and brothers. Through this marriage, the Bertha family improved their class status, while Mr. Rochester also gained more wealth. However, the relationship between the two sides only existed in a transaction. Bertha's marriage had no love to speak of, but she did not fight for any happiness for herself. Therefore, after her marriage, because of her inner pain, she finally led to a mental disorder, and the two people bound by marriage, even if they enjoy the immediate benefits, are completely defeated. On the basis of Bertha, Charlotte further expands the tragedy of women in her time, which makes readers suffer more impact in the face of Bertha, so as to accuse the times.

3 The influence of *Jane Eyre* on feminism

This part will discuss the feminism influence from Jane Eyre.

3.1 set up women's independent ideology systematically and comprehensively

Jane Eyre became a classic since it was the starting point of Establishing Women's independent ideology, which influenced the construction of Western women's ideology. As far as writing itself is concerned, Charlotte has improved the image of Jane Eyre from two aspects. First, from the core content to create an independent female image. The traditional English literature is often accompanied by the tragic ending of the characters but also does not imply the educational significance to the public. The appearance of Jane Eyre breaks the traditional description of women. She also has a tragic life experience, but she always faces the upper class in a tough attitude and ridicules them from the bottom of her heart. It was this point that promoted the transformation of modern western women's ideology. Second, from the description of multiple female perspectives to set off the protagonist's independent character. In this book, Charlotte not only describes Jane Eyre but also depicts a number of characters, which further sets off Jane Eyre's character. For instance, Helen is so weak, her character is too submissive and finally died of a tragic illness; Miss Temple is quiet and calm, she helps Jane Eyre shape her independent character; and Bartha Mason, who is a typical female sacrifice under the patriarchy, is a tragic female character, etc. Their ideological trends are so different that represent women's ideology completely and systematically in the 19th century, and give the women in that era a good education and enlightenment.

3.2 Accelerating the realization of women's equal rights

In Britain before the 19th century, reading was only the right of the aristocracy and the upper class. However, in the 19th century, with the rise of the industrial revolution, British literature got unprecedented development, and with the rise of the feminist movement, ordinary women's thirst for knowledge became more and more intense. Otherwise, due to the outbreak of the First World War and the Second World War, women played an irreplaceable role in the war, whether in the safe rear or in the cruel front. Therefore, when women claim equal rights, they can be widely concerned by the public and become the focus of discussion in society. Jane Eyre of the story, whether in the process of fighting for her own right or in the pursuit of true love, insisted on equality with others. This theme was very popular with women at that time and its success obviously conforms to the requirements of historical development. Moreover, literature then was an important way to spread the Women's Movement. As a literary work, *Jane Eyre* was widely circulated in people's hands. It can be said that although *Jane Eyre* has some limitations, its core idea is to express the feminism of self-esteem and self-improvement, and it also expands the content around the idea of female independence. Due to its popularity, especially female readers, it has aroused widespread concern and strong repercussions in society. The combination of literary themes

and social ideology can effectively accelerate the realization of equal rights between women and men.

3.3 Promoting the rise of women's movement

The women's movement which began in the 19th century, through the spread of Western literature in the world, shaped images of women's independence has been extended to all parts of the world at the end of the 20th century. The idea of independence and equality has been paid close attention to all over the world and has become a highly respected ideological system of female groups. As a literary classic, *Jane Eyre* portrays a simple and unadorned woman who maintains her independent character on the road of pursuing herself. In the meantime, her pursuit of love is very pure, and never give up. Such an idea was very bold and avant-garde at that time also was highly praised by the public. It is because of this, in the development of the Women's Movement, *Jane Eyre* has become a landmark book. It leads women to open the shackles of ideology, to shape themselves bravely, and to pursue themselves. These western feminist literature has made further preparations for the influence on world literature and women's equal rights. Therefore, in addition to the love of the public, much in-depth literary analysis and research have emerged in modern society, which makes the public have a deeper understanding of *Jane Eyre*. Thus more women join in and are willing to change themselves ideologically. As a result of these women's efforts, in turn, the development of the women's movement was promoted. More and more people participated in the movement and fought for their own rights and interests, which further expanded the dissemination of women's independent ideology and further promoted the development of the Women's Movement.

3.4 build a harmonious female environment around the development of literature system

Jane Eyre, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Notre Dame de Paris*, *The Lady of the Camellias*, and a series of world-famous works not only lead the trend of the times in Europe but also receive the love and acceptance of readers all over the world. The idea of women's independence and equality has attracted much attention, and the influence of the Women's Movement has penetrated into all parts of the world. In fact, *Jane Eyre* did not directly expound or promote feminism, but endowed the protagonist with character in the development process of the story, so as to resist the hard life. Therefore, the value of Charlotte's portrayal of Jane Eyre lies in that she is a woman with good and defective character. She is very real and lovely, and more easily accepted by women. Similar to *Jane Eyre*, this series of literature have inspired the consciousness of modern women's independence and equality. However, with basing on western feminism, the development of world feminine ideology mainly should draw the essence of spirit from the literary resources, thus constructing a harmonious female environment. Therefore, around the development of the literature system, we

should not only do a good job in the dissemination of information but also effectively help to protect the rights and interests of women in the whole world.

4 The Enlightenment of Jane Eyre to modern female

Jane Eyre is a Book of epoch-making significance. It has an important guiding significance for modern women to demand equal and independent right.

4.1 Arousing the resistance consciousness of Feminism

In contemporary society, women's awareness of fighting for their rights and interests has gradually formed, but in fact, many women still live a life of defiance. One part is that women encounter difficulties in choosing a career, either due to their low educational background or because of their poor ability and lack of working experience. Instead of trying to improve their own quality, they are unwilling to struggle or even abandon themselves. And there are some other women, after getting married and having children, they shift their focus of life to their families. These women take their husbands and children as their whole, and gradually become divorced from society and lose their own opinions. Although the times are so different, Jane Eyre also faces difficulties in life. But she has a strong desire for knowledge, and she actively resists the injustice of fate. Contrary to her, Helen is also a very smart girl, but she always accepts everything and even forgives others' bullying. Therefore, just behind her weak character, we can see her suffering seems to be endless until she dies. Generally speaking, in the face of difficulties in life, women should improve their own ability, expand their knowledge, find ways to solve problems, and break the inherent social stereotypes. Resistance does not mean that we must get along with others with a tough attitude, but we should take life seriously at any time, dare to break through the existing difficulties, and challenge our own destiny, which is the sense of resistance advocated by Jane Eyre.

4.2 Keep the good quality of tenacity

In depicting the character, Charlotte does not use too many gorgeous words, but instead plain language to show the simple woman. In fact, Jane Eyre's plot is closely related to the author's life experience, she also has a similar character of unwilling to compromise with life. For example, she suffered many setbacks in writing a book, but she still bravely contributed to the publisher many times and finally succeeded. And she fell in love with Arthur bell Nicholls. Despite her father's obstruction, she boldly pursued her own happiness and became her wife. These fine qualities are written by her in Jane Eyre. This indomitable character is the most important weapon to overcome the difficulties and hardships in life. Therefore, when modern women are faced with a hard life, they can also use the precious

character to clear the obstacles of life. Only by sticking to the valuable quality of heart, we can challenge the difficulties in life.

4.3 Establish independent female ideology

Sel-esteem, self-love, self-confidence, and self-improvement are the most precious qualities of Jane Eyre. As a woman discriminated against by society in the Victorian era, Jane Eyre did not have a beautiful appearance and rich family background. However, through several years of hard learning, she has grown into a woman with knowledge, self-cultivation, and self-respect. Even if Mr. Rochester wanted to give her jewelry and clothes, she refused. At the same time, she insisted on continuing to be a governess in Thornfield Hall, maintaining her independence. After the Women's Movement, compared with Jane Eyre's time, modern society gives women many opportunities to show themselves. Women, like men, have many chances of success in the workplace and life, they can also pursue their dreams and realize their own values. But meanwhile, due to the accelerated pace of life, there will be a lot of pressure both from work and life. Under multiple pressures, many women easily lose themselves in it. At such times, it is extra important to maintain an independent position. Therefore, in any case, women should not exile themselves for fame and wealth, they should not become the accessories of others. Instead, they should stick to noble self-consciousness, maintain personality independence, and self-respect. In the pursuit of life goals on the road, although Jane Eyre encountered a variety of setbacks, she firmly believes in herself and never gives up. Similarly, each of us is born differently, but as long as we insist on enriching our inner self-cultivation and not giving up easily, we can have a strong and independent personality, which can face the difficulties and pressures of life with a broad mind.

4.4 maintain a rational view of love

Whether in the West or East, women in the history of marriage and love are usually more passive, they have no life of their own and always choose to cling to the family or men. Nowadays, with the change of times, the whole society is more and more open, women not only have equal educational opportunities with men, but also with the development of economy and the increase of job opportunities, women also have more chances to choose their own life styles. They can fight for their own rights and interests independently. However, on the emotional side, many women are also very emotional and have been hurt. Jane Eyre's attitude toward love is always rational. She is neither humble nor arrogant, chooses the people she loves from her heart, and thus serves as the basis of her marriage. She did not abandon the emotional foundation, and also did not take money and status as the premise of reference. At the same time, in the face of some conflicts with the moral bottom line of love, she dares to give up. For modern women, the attitude of independence should not only be maintained in spirit, but also in material. Only by adhering to self-reliance

and speaking out their own opinions, can win the respect of the partner and have more rights in the communication between the two sides. Therefore, even in contemporary society, we should learn from Jane Eyre's concept of rational treatment of love. We should bravely resist the love under the power and pursue a marriage that belongs to ourselves. In general, modern women should be independent and dare to pursue their own happiness.

5 Conclusion

Jane Eyre has a profound influence on western feminism. Although this work is not perfect, it plays a leading role in Western feminist literature. To attach importance to feminism must be based on the development of feminist literature and even the whole literary system. Facing feminism literature, scholars should go further criticism and research, remove the obstacles of feminism given by the times, and establish a new and good modern image for women.

References

Peter Barry. (2016) *Beginning Theory: An introduction to literary and cultural theory*. 4th edn. Manchester University Press.

Emily Griesinger. (2008) 'Charlotte Brontë's religion: faith, feminism and Jane Eyre', *Christianity and Literature*, 1(58), pp:29-59.

Wikipedia, Charlotte Brontë. Available at:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlotte_Bront%C3%AB (Access: 2 December 2020).

Wikipedia, Jane Eyre. Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Eyre (Access: 2 December 2020).

Maria Lamonace. (2002) 'Jane's crown of thorns: feminism and christianity in Jane Eyre', *Studies in the Novel*, 1(32), pp:245-263.

Haiyan Gao. (2013) 'Reflection on feminism in Jane Eyre', *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, 3(6), pp:926-931.

Warren Edminster. (2003) 'Fairies and feminism: recurrent patterns in Chaucer's 'The Wife of Bath's Tale' and Brontë's Jane Eyre', *The Victorian Newsletter*, pp:22-28.

Yanhong Li. (2020)'Western feminism analysis of Jane Eyre from the perspective of equality and independence', Journal of Heilongjiang Institute of Teacher Development, 39(5), pp:128-130.

Tingting Xu. (2020)'On the main female characters in Jane Eyre from the perspective of Feminism', Youth Literature, pp:80-81.

Xiaoran Liu. (2019)'On the forms of feminism in Jane Eyre', Journal of Chifeng University(Soc.Sci), 40(5), pp:89-91.

Mingxia Liu. (2018)'Feminism in Jane Eyre', Literature Education, pp:84-85.

Minling Wu. (2018)'A Brief analysis of feminist resistance consciousness in Jane Eyre', Youth Literature, pp:150.

Ying Huang. (2019)'The Enlightenment of Jane Eyre's artistic image to modern women', Journal of Guiyang University social science, 14(5), pp:98-100.