

Research on the Image of Female Teacher in Chinese Educational Film

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Abstract: The research is that the image of teachers occupies an important position in Chinese educational movies. Teachers are analyzed artistically in film and television works, giving people a new perspective to know teachers. The image of teachers is highlighted, and with the help of Chinese film and television works, the image of teachers is analyzed in depth and studied effectively. The multiple meanings and important roles of teachers' image are recognized and understood.

This research describes and analyzes the characteristics and connotations of Chinese teacher culture under the vein of historical and cultural changes through the representation of the teacher image as the main body of teacher culture, including the sages and bureaucrats of the ancient teachers, the enlightened teachers of the modern teachers, and the public servants and professionals of the modern teachers. The study concludes that the development and change of teachers' image is a product of the times, which is epochal, but also has a certain inheritance; at the same time, in the process of the change of teachers' image culture, the teacher-student relationship, which is centered on teachers' view of parenting, also develops and changes, and retains some parts with essential attributes.

The construction of teacher's image includes the output of teacher's image and the subjective construction of teacher's image by other people such as students. To make the output of teacher's image more in line with the social role identity, teachers must start from their own cultural identity and pay attention to the cultural construction of their own image. With the continuous development of the Chinese education movie, the image of teachers is constantly being constructed and reshaped. From the flower of the motherland, the garden of youth, and the mother-daughter teacher in the 1930s to the image of the Chinese teacher now. The current academic research on teacher image has achieved rich results, but the shortcomings, obvious, the main shortcomings are reflected in the following aspects: Firstly, research fragmentation, lack of comprehensive research over a long period of time. Secondly, the research object is single, lack of overall research on the image of teachers with multiple identities. Thirdly, the research on teachers' image stays on the surface of imagination and lacks in-depth research. Fourthly, The image of teachers in China has more research on professional image, and lacks research on the connotative image of teachers' image under the concept of four teachers put forward by the Chinese government nowadays. Teachers' image output in the teacher's appearance, speech, practice, thought and other aspects to work together.

Key Words: Chinese Cinema, Teacher Image, Reflection

1. Introduction

The image of teacher should be regarded as a overall impression and general evaluation from people in stable and general expression to numerous perspectives including teachers' daily speech and behavior manner, appearance and charming, physical and mental quality, cultural accomplishment, professional skills, and their professional ethics under certain historical and cultural backgrounds and conditions. This subject takes the image of female teachers in Chinese educational movies as our subject for research, the major research contents can be divided into five parts. During the first section, we will start from the detailed analysis of relevant information of documents, conducting theoretical investigations on various teacher's images, interpreting the connotation of teacher's images (Rosemary. Panant .Tong, 2002), the concept of teacher's image, as well as the composition and classification of teacher's image, so as to provide a foundation for this subjective research from theoretical perspective. During the second section, through using the analysis method of movie appreciation, we conducted code and analysis in classification on numerous indicators of female teachers in Chinese educational movie including their age, appearance, educational background, morality, so as to summarize evaluation in the following five perspectives including appearance image, physiological image, image of knowledge background, mobility image and personality image, while discovering the main characteristics and remaining problems of female teacher's (Wei Dongqiu, 2003). Images cultivated by Chinese educational movies. In the third section, through wielding research methods from femaleology, we took female teachers as a single educational group, so

as to investigate problems around female characters in those existing female teacher's images in Chinese educational film. During the fourth section, basing on the perspective of the professional group of female teachers, we can analyze numerous practical factors affecting the image building of female teachers' image in China's educational movies, which can be divided into two perspectives of inner and external matters respectively. During the fifth section, through comparing and analyzing those characteristics of female teachers' characters in China's educational films, we can conduct relevant reflections from the perspective of theories, so as to providing relevant enlightenment on the manner construction of female teachers in practical livelihood.(Li Yinhe ,2005)

2. Literature Review

Since the reform and opening up, there have been a large number of researches on "teacher image" in China. Through keyword search on CNKI, it is found that there are 960 related academic papers that contain the keyword "teacher image" in the subjects. The words of "teacher image" have been continuously incorporated into new connotations after many years of research. For instance, its constituent elements are education and occupation, and its main qualities include morality, talent and learning and magnanimity, which can be divided into various levels such as superficial, intelligent talent, and personality image, etc. After summarizing a large amount of literature, this paper focuses on the literature review of teacher image from the perspectives of real life, literary works, news media, and movie and television works. 1. The image of teachers (Yang Mingquan, 2002)in real life. In real life, people's understanding about the image of teachers is always lofty, who are compared to red candles and spring silkworms. They always make quiet dedication in their work, and cultivate students one generation after another. Wang Yihan mentioned in the paper *The Main Features of Contemporary Teachers' Image in the Teacher's Perspective* that "the three factors that constitute this image are the exemplary virtue, the succession of teachings, and the teachers' responsibility"; Wang Yuanqing mentioned in the paper *The Lack and Reconstruction of the Ideal Teacher's Image* that "imparting knowledge and educating people, academic research, and social responsibility are the qualities that an ideal teacher image should have"; Zhang Qinglin explored the importance of teacher image on students' personality and physical and mental development in the paper *Exploring the Influence of Teacher Image in the New Century on Students*, which requires teachers to continuously improve themselves. Kamiji Kyuo holds the idea that the images of teachers can be shaped by the unity of his natural qualities, the characteristics of guiding students and organizing the teaching process, and his own moral qualities. Besides, the images of teachers can be deconstructed in Tang Xiaohua's *On the Transformation of Teachers' Images* and Li Qingwen's *Teachers' Images in the Postmodern Perspective*", etc., which point out its versatility. Teachers, like ordinary people, require to survive under various pressures, enjoy the right to remuneration, and achieve their own life aspirations, whose personalities are comprehensive and full. The professional image of a teacher is a stable summary, overall evaluation and impression of the role played by the profession in society, the characteristics of the profession, and the behavior of the practitioners of this profession under a certain historical and cultural background. Many scholars have carried out research on this from the perspective of teacher professionalism. In *The Inner Spirit and Construction of Modern Teachers' Professional Image* teachers' professional motivation, efficacy, and aesthetics are elaborated and the social characteristics of teachers' images as well as professional spirit are analyzed; in *Teachers' Professional Awareness and Its Production Mechanism*, the qualitative characteristics of teachers' professional consciousness are analyzed and its production mechanism is discussed. Teachers' professional awareness is teachers' understanding and recognition of their own profession, which fundamental influences teacher's professional value orientation. It is the sum of the teacher's professional image awareness, responsibilities, rights, values, accomplishments, etc., which is also the foundation of the professional image. In *On the Shaping and Cultivation of Vocal Music Teachers' Professional Image in Higher Normal Universities*", the systematic nature of teachers' professional teaching and the importance of professional image shaping and training are discussed. On the one hand, teachers themselves require to experience many years of rigorous learning and assessment to maintain their own professional knowledge and skills. For instance, teachers require to know that "teaching benefits teachers as well as students" as summarized in *The Note of Learning*. On the other hand, teachers' functional requirements require to take responsibility for the education of the students under its jurisdiction. Guo Shaoying and Zhu Chengke's *Concepts of "Teacher Quality" and "Teacher Professional Quality* and Chen Weiguo's *Enrich Campus Culture by Establishing Teachers' Image* uphold the idea that teacher development is urgent for teacher professional development. Only through actively improving one's own basic literacy can it be possible to develop one's own professional improvement and truly achieve professional development; Sun Mingxiang and Hu Jiabin's *The New Model of "Micro-Teaching" Post Training for Young Teachers in Colleges and Universities* and Tan Yanqing's *The Harm of Teachers' Bad Words and Governance* deeply analyzed the reasons for the bad words and deeds of teachers in modern society, as well as the corrective measures, which elaborated on the training methods as well as the detailed requirements of young teachers. Li Pinghui's paper

Thoughts on Improving the Status of Teachers by Professionalization of Teachers from “Take the Momentum” to “Generate Momentum” reflects on the existing social status of teachers and proposes corresponding suggestions for improvement. Liao Huizhi pointed out in the Research on the Role Transformation of University Teachers in China in the New Era that teachers in the new era should devote themselves to cultivating all-round development of talents and that in the course of education, teachers should focus on teaching students according to their aptitudes and the shaping of students’ character. Most of the research in this part is based on the educational theory, focusing on how to improve the professional quality as well as teaching ability of college teachers so as to create a good external image. (Liu Jing, 2004)

Research on the image of teachers in movie and television works. The image of teachers in movie and television works has changed with the times, which reflects the public’s psychological expectations for the current educational situation. Thus, the image of teachers constructed in movie and television works is often a reflection of performance of traditional culture and different educational attitudes. In the paper Study on the Values of Current Domestic Campus Youth Movies, it is believed that the traditional image of teachers is being gradually subverted in the movies. The presentation of the teachers’ images is mainly a combination of a consumption context and mainstream consumption, as well as the expression of love and values under the secular and ideals. In Prospecting Audience Psychology from the Changes of Teacher Image in Movie and Television Media, the traditional “red candles” and contemporary “great teacher” images are compared, which holds the idea that this image change is associated with the psychological changes of the audience. A youth movie in China mainly shows the professionalization of teachers’ development from the image of teachers. The images of teachers in the past have also been constantly changing with the development of modern education. Wang Ying summarized in her paper several classic teacher images in China’s movie and television works which reflect the old school graduates in a special era, Zhang Meili with maternal glory, Wei Minzhi with “one-track mind”, and teacher Jiang who leads the artistic ideal. Most of the domestic movie and television works conform to the image of the teacher in the traditional concept of people, that is, the human soul engineer. Zhu Pingzhen first summarized the types of common teacher images in Common Teacher Images in Movies: the types of kindly influence of a good teacher, self-sacrificing and saving, passionate alternatives, big villains, teachers who are not teachers, tutors. Wang Ying’s Classic Teacher Image on the Chinese Screen lists several basic plot patterns that are common in movies; Liu Han’s Research on Teacher Image in Current Domestic Educational Movies summarized that stories often use poor areas as the place where the story happens, and most of the images of teachers in the movie appear as a disadvantaged group in society, who are moral giants and shorty in teaching practice. Few studies have been generalized on the transformation of teachers’ image, mainly including Zhu Pingzhen’s Small Quantity, Shallow Level, and Demonetization On the Deficiency of Teacher Image in Chinese Movies and Ye Congrong’s On the Screen in Deconstruction and Construction”, in which the image of teachers points out the changes in the image of movie teachers and reflects the evolution of aesthetics in today’s society. The research mostly starts from narratology and art, which focuses on movie and television reviews as well as character image analysis.(Tan Zaiqiong, 2001).

As for the research on teacher image in foreign countries, Japan is one of the earliest countries to study “teacher image”. The image of Japanese teachers has undergone a transition from the ideal of a “clergy” teacher to a “worker” teacher ideal, and then to a “professional” teacher ideal. Japanese scholar Sato divided the image of Japanese teachers in the book Curriculum and Teachers into four types: teachers as public servants, teachers as laborers, teachers as skilled workers and teachers as reflective practitioners. In the American educational tradition, the public’s evaluation on teachers is not high. The image of teachers as communicators of civilization is not so noble and great in people’s minds, and even there are several negative descriptions. Professionalism is popular in American society. The problem of teacher professionalization has also brought people’s attention to the forefront in the 21st century education reform. However, the degree of professionalization of teachers is not high, and the professional image of teachers has not gained universal recognition. Teachers are considered as semi-professionals, such as nurses and social workers, which still has a certain distance from professional professions like doctors and lawyers. American schools also request teachers to become the incarnation of morality, who appear in the image of moral role models. Teachers should serve as role models for students, who should play a demonstrative role, spread basic values to students, and cultivate students’ moral qualities. The research on teacher image in Japan and the United States has certain representative significance. However, the study in Japan has not risen to the theoretical level, and the study about core issues such as the connotation and composition of teacher image is far from enough. In America, the study of teacher image is systematic and in-depth, but there is no special research conducted on “teacher image”.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Research questions/issues

There are three difficulties in this research. The first difficult point is the selection and analysis on more than 60 sets of China's educational movies. It is difficult to grasp the image of female teacher from movies, since China's educational movies have been characterized by various kinds of types, enormous amounts, and long broadcasting time, as for those reason, it is difficult to grasp the image of female teacher form this. he second difficult point should be regarded as the relationship between the professionalization of teachers' team and the female characters of images of female teachers. The third difficulty is the relationship between the images of female teachers in movies and the images of female teachers in our practical life, revealing the external and inner components influencing the cultivation of images of female teachers in numerous China's educational movies

3.2 Research objectives

First of all, this paper conducted a diachronic study on those female teachers' images in China's educational film, revealing the changing trend of Female teachers' images in China. Secondly ,This paper tried to exploring the regulations between changes of Female teachers' images in China and the development of society, through conducting analysis and interpretation to different elements of female teachers' characters in Chinese educational movies, then making quantitative analysis on female teachers from perspectives of sexuality, urban and rural areas, and different educational phases, and finally conducting qualitative interpretation from visual image, action image, and opinion image in different stages. Thirdly, this paper tried to explore a dynamic mechanism of the image construction for China's female teacher, through analyzing relevant influential factors and its interaction of characters' construction for female teachers in China's education films. Fourthly, this paper made a re-examine on both the images of educators of female teachers and the image of social person of teachers' group, promoting professional reflection on teachers from female perspectives and teachers' professional development value on the basis of female pedagogy.

3.3 Hypotheses

Through analysis and exploration, the main characteristics and problems of Chinese educational movies in shaping the image of female teachers. The first assumption is that Chinese educational movies have some shortcomings in shaping the image of teachers, that is, the role image is single, the image is feeble and weak, the image is marginalized and the non-specialization phenomenon is obvious. Chinese educational movies should keep up with the times and shape the image of female teachers which keep pace with the times. Thus, it is advised that Chinese educational movies should attach importance to the three-dimensional problem in the construction of the image of female teachers.

Through carrying out analysis on female teachers as an educational group, the issue of female characteristics in the image of female teachers was examined. The second idea proposed is that when taking the professionalization of teachers into account, the advantages of female teachers and the whole group of female teachers are ignored, which compares and analyses the actual existence of the female characteristics of Chinese female teachers and the "absence" of female characteristics in the classic teacher image which was created by Chinese educational movies. Through carrying out analysis on the actual factors which affect the image of female teachers in Chinese educational movies, they can be divided into two aspects: external factors and internal factors. The third assumption proposed is that the external factors are changes in the political and economic situation, changes in social and cultural values, and changes in personal appeals and public aesthetic tastes; internal factors are the deviation of female teachers' responsibilities and roles, and teachers' moral dilemmas.

(1) The Method of Movie analysis: The analysis process of film includes appreciation and recommendation of a movie, Film appreciation is a kind of appreciation to the project of movie itself, including appreciation to the classification of movie, appreciation to the type of movie, appreciation to those stories , plots, and dramatic characteristics of movies, appreciation to film's roles, relationships between different characters, and the distinctive personalities of different characters, appreciation to the construction and analysis of specific details and plots, appreciation to the utilization of movie's lens and scene direction, appreciation to movies' composite of pictures and structure of art designer, appreciation to elements like movies' voice, sound effects, and etc, appreciation to performance and body action of movie characters, appreciation to the specific style of film's directors, appreciation to the overall view of films. Film comment is regarded as a art and cultural activities with creativeness, on the premier of film appreciation, with film theories as guidance, taking various specific films' phenomenon's as researching objects. The essence of film comment is emphasized on making analysis, judgment, and comment to specific film's project, so as to those values of projects in numerous aspects

including ideological implication and art technique. Movies comment has numerous methods, including comments on social and historical background, comments on psychological analysis, comments in structuralism, comments on comparative analysis, methods of interpretation analysis, methods of systematic analysis,

(2) Researches of Femaleology: Femaleology is a kind of science about the essence, characteristics, remaining status, and its regular of development. This research take general female as its research perspective, with logic structure starting from the perspective of person, while taking male as its reference, so as to focus on female better. The major perspective of research methods around femaleology is that: from the perspective of research method, this research methods combining adherence in methodology with application in practices of detailed methods, while putting adherence of social gender as priority. From the perspective of document collection, such method achieve a balance between the expression of the reason and the explanation of the reason, while putting the emphasis on explaining the reason. From the measures of analysis, such method took both empirical, quantitative analysis and explanatory, qualitative researches as account, while emphasizing on qualitative researches of interpretation. From the perspective of research method, this method combine absorption of multiple disciplinary with multiple disciplinary innovation, while putting the development of methods on multiple disciplinary researches as priority.

(3) Method of individual cases analysis: An individual case is the choices to research objects. Researches on individual cases have long been regarded as one of the most common methods used in qualitative investigation; however, it is neither new nor pure qualitative research. A research on individual cases is not a choice on methodology, but a choice to research object. We can not only make a research on individual cases through methods such as repeated measurements, and other analytical and holistic methods, but also through multiple perspectives including interpretive, organic, and cultural perspectives. Generally speaking, we can't take each object as an individual case, since each individual case should have its specialty and limitation. Each individual case is a specific individuality, which should be taken as a "system with distinctive boundary". The purpose is for better recognizing individual cases with specific meaning, which is neither because it represents to other individual cases, nor because it interpret a characteristic or a question, the reason why people conduct research is due to its inside meaning, which is conducive for us to understand other things.

(4) Method of comparative analysis, through conducting comparative research on images of female teacher from China's educational film in horizontal and longitudinal direction, this method makes comparison and revelation on the difference of images of female teachers in China's educational films at different period from visual, action, ideological perspectives respectively, so as to deepen the recognition on the changing process of images of female teachers.

(5) Historical research methods. This method tries to restore the image of female teachers to the grand background of the development of whole society, conducting analysis on the casual matter of the change of female teacher's image in educational film produced in different historical period, so as to find the influential matters of image construction for female teachers across different China's educational film, while exploring the construction mechanism of the images of Chinese female teachers.

4. Limitations

The collection of movies in this paper is limited. This paper is only based on the image of teachers in movie and television. The understanding of teacher image may not be comprehensive enough. In reality, the image of teachers is diversified, which may be very not the same as the image of teachers in movie and television. This paper avoids the gap in the process of writing, but this limitation will arise inevitably. The teacher image has a dynamic process of shaping and the teacher image discussed in this paper has a static defect in movie and television, which lacks interaction with educational practice and social reality, and may not have a three-dimensional grasp of the image of teachers

5. Conclusions

First, Theoretical Significance:

Researches around female teachers' images have long been a significant issues among numerous researches around teachers. Most remaining researches are insufficient in clear and detailed analysis framework, most of which are lack of effective analysis on female teachers' images in films. This research has introduced analyzing theories on CIS images, and developed it into teachers' images theories, so as to conduct a deep analysis on female teachers' images in China of different stages, while trying to explore the construction

mechanism of female teachers' images in China, enriching and developing theoretical researches on images of female teachers.

Second, Practical Significance:

From individual perspective, this research promoted female teachers' recognition to their personal images through a historical perspective. Being as a female teacher, it is necessary to know not only the requirement of the images of female teachers from the perspective of mainstream value in the course of period progress, but also the changing characteristics and construction mechanism of the images of female teachers. Such consciousness is helpful for not only achieving self-development during the process of reflection, but also constructing a self-image in a new era.

From the perspective of society, this research is conducive for public to understand the images of female teachers scientifically and therefore, to construct the images of female teachers reasonably. Characters of female teachers in China's educational movie are able to show the mainstream value at that time, which is conducive to provide a comprehensive and practical recognition for public in understanding the group of female teachers, to form a benign atmosphere in respecting teachers while emphasizing on morality, so as to enhance teacher's qualities.

From national perspective, this research is conducive to enhance the independent consciousness and social status of China's female teachers. In the formal patriarchal society, inequality to women groups was hidden under absolute equality in a more hidden method. As for those reason, we should stress equality on the basis of receiving difference reasonably, so as to promote the harmonious development of the whole teacher group, changing relevant governmental regulations and educational policies with implicit gender discrimination.

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