

# Study of Literary Theory and Chinese Modern and Contemporary Literature

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Abstract: There is a close relationship between literary theory and contemporary Chinese literature, and the integration of knowledge from different disciplines. To realize the development of contemporary Chinese literature, not only the support of literary theory research is needed, but also the research results of different disciplines and the integration of discipline knowledge are needed. It also lays a theoretical foundation for promoting the development and research of Chinese contemporary literature. This article conducts in-depth research on literary theory and Chinese modern and contemporary literature, it deeply analyzes the relationship between literary theory and Chinese modern and contemporary literature, and puts forward some suggestions for promoting the development of literary theory, promoting the development of modern and contemporary Chinese literature, Promoting the development of the literature industry is of great significance, and it provides specific implementation strategies for promoting literary theory and the study of modern and contemporary Chinese literature.

Keywords: literary theory, modern and contemporary Chinese literature, cultural self-confidence

### 1. Overview of Literary Theory and Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature

### **1.1 Literary Theory**

Literary theory comes from literary practice. It is a summary of the practical experience of literary creation, and raises the summarized experience of literary creation that conforms to the law to a theoretical level, and finally forms a literary theory that can be used to guide literary practice. Literary theory mainly has the following characteristics: First, literary theory has distinct practical characteristics, because literary theory comes from literary practice, and in turn guides literary practice, which determines the practical characteristics of literary theory; second, literary theory With the characteristics of advancing with the times, literary theory is not static, it will continue to be enriched and perfected with the development of the times and the development of literary practice. In addition, the study of literary theory, as superstructure and ideological literature, is qualitatively prescriptive, which determines that literary theory also has the distinct characteristics of ideology. During the development of the Chinese nation for more than 5,000 years, the people of successive dynasties have summed up and extracted a wealth of literary theories from the practice of literary creation. These literary theories provide a theoretical basis for the establishment of modern and contemporary Chinese literature disciplines.

### **1.2 Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature**

There are disputes in domestic academic circles about the concept of modern and contemporary Chinese literature and the definition of time division. Some scholars believe that modern and contemporary Chinese literature refers to the literature from before and after the "May 4th Movement" to the present, which is called modern Chinese literature and contemporary literature, collectively called modern and contemporary Chinese Literature, this time division is based on the time of modern Chinese history and contemporary history, where modern refers to the period of the new democratic revolution, and contemporary refers to the socialist period. It is not difficult to find that most scholars delineate the development stage of modern Chinese literature from 1917 to 1949, and the development stage of contemporary literature from 1949 to the present. From 1917 to the present, modern and contemporary Chinese literary works have continuously emerged, and both literary works and literary theories have achieved new development results. Conduct in-depth research on the role of modern and contemporary Chinese literature from the perspective of literary theory research, summarize a series of laws contained in modern and contemporary Chinese literature, and promote the development of Chinese literary practice and literary theory in the context of the new era, and promote the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation.

significance and far-reaching practical significance to bring excellent Chinese literary works in the new era to the world stage.

# 2. The relationship between literary theory and modern and contemporary Chinese literature

Literary theory is a humanities discipline that studies the general laws of literary creation and the essential characteristics of literature, while Chinese modern and contemporary literature specifically refers to the literature formed in a specific historical period from before and after the "May 4th Movement" to the present. There are differences in the content of contemporary literature research, but there is also a relationship between the two that cannot be ignored.

## 2.1 Literary theory is the basis for the development of modern and contemporary Chinese literature

Literary theory is a discipline that specializes in studying the rules of literary creation and summarizing the practical experience of literary creation. It has relatively rich content in literary theory, and it plays an important supporting role in literary theory for the establishment and development of modern and contemporary Chinese literature. Although after the May 4th Movement, some writers in our country created works that were widely praised by young people at that time, the formation of literary works in this period was also supported by profound literary theories, such as: traditional Chinese literary theory and Marxist literary theory. It belongs to the support of literary theory in this period, and the western literary theory also began to infiltrate into our country's literary theory in this period, which had different degrees of influence on the creation of literary works in this period in our country. Similarly, contemporary literary works cannot be separated from the support of literary theory. For example, the novels and poetry literary works created by literary writers in the midto-late 1980s all contain different literary theoretical content. This reflects from the side: both modern literary works and contemporary literary works are inseparable from the support of literary theory, but it should be noted that in the process of studying the relationship between literary theory and Chinese modern and contemporary literature, Marxist historical To study the relationship between them from the point of view of materialism, and to study the development of literary theory and modern Chinese literature in a connected and developing space, so that we can have a deeper grasp of the role of literary theory in the development of modern Chinese literature. In order to better grasp the internal relationship between literary theory and Chinese modern and contemporary literature, only by the theoretical supporting role played by it.

## 2.2 The interactive relationship between literary theory and modern and contemporary Chinese literature

Since literary theory comes from the practice of literary creation, and it guides the development of modern and contemporary Chinese literature, this shows that there is an interactive relationship between literary theory and modern and contemporary Chinese literature. From the perspective of content attributes, both literary theory and modern and contemporary Chinese literature belong to the introduction to literature and literature and art in essence, and both belong to the teaching content of the second-level disciplines established under the first-level disciplines, which determines the relationship between literary theory and modern and contemporary Chinese literature. There is a specific relationship between content and subject attributes, but the two are relatively independent. This independence is reflected in the fact that literary theory is the theoretical result summed up from the practice of literary development in different periods. These literary theories have great influence on China. The development of modern and contemporary literature has a guiding role. From the perspective of the development of theory and practice, if the development of literary theory is separated from the practice of modern and contemporary Chinese literature, literary theory will lose its theoretical charm and vitality; Creators will lose their way. Just as the Marxist theory emphasized in the report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China must be integrated with China's specific reality and excellent traditional Chinese culture, and when it comes to the practice of creating modern and contemporary Chinese literature and the development of literary theory, literary theory must also be integrated. The combination with the practice of modern and contemporary Chinese literature, the combination of the creation practice of modern and contemporary Chinese literature with the excellent traditional Chinese culture and the specific reality of China in the new era, so that the interactive relationship between quasi-literary theory and modern and contemporary Chinese literature can be created to create More excellent literary works will help build a culturally powerful country in the new era.

# **3.** Research on Literary Theory and Implications of Chinese Modern and Contemporary Literature

#### 3.1 Promote the development of literary theory

The research on the development of contemporary Chinese literature and the research on literary theory are synchronous and divergent. Horizontally, literary theory research and development are directly related to literary theory: vertically, literary theory promotes the paradigm, pattern, and intention of contemporary literary development. Therefore, in realizing the development of contemporary Chinese literature, it must be in the same direction as the development of literary theory, effectively integrated with knowledge of other disciplines, and also use the research of other disciplines to serve the development of literary theory. One is to learn from others and integrate subject knowledge with each other. Literary theoretical knowledge intersects with other different disciplines for discipline construction. The theoretical study of literature can not be limited to a single subject knowledge, but can also use modern subject knowledge as the theoretical basis, and form its own theoretical source of literary theory in this multidisciplinary knowledge. Wang Guowei, a master of Chinese national studies, introduced western philosophers such as Kant and Spencer and western aesthetics into the study of Chinese literary work "Dream of Red Mansions". academic value. The second is to study Chen Guo with the help of other disciplines for the use of Chinese literature. Chinese literature has encountered many "stuck" problems in the research process. Although some problems have been solved, there are still some problems that need to be solved urgently. "Useless work" thinking and research, although some literary theory research will be "blocked" in literary theory, but in other disciplines research can be solved. For example, literature studies the causes and meanings of "dreams" and "instincts", while psychology has research results, such as the problem of "interpretation" studied in literary theory, and both phenomenology and hermeneutics in philosophy. There are in-depth research results.

## **3.2** Promoting the development of Chinese modern and contemporary literature (creating more contemporary cultural works)

Throughout every progress in literary theory, it has promoted the development of contemporary Chinese literature.

In the literary structure, there are subdivision structures such as pure literature and popular literature. For a long time, pure literature has played an important role in modern and contemporary Chinese literature. Pure literature is represented by literary periodicals, such as the well-known "Minimal Fiction" and "Readers". Since the level of knowledge and education in our country has been greatly improved compared with the past, literary periodicals are no longer exclusive to intellectuals and successful people, but have become popular, creating more contemporary cultural works.

#### 3.3 Promoting the development of the literature industry

Research on literary theory and modern and contemporary Chinese literature has important implications for promoting the prosperity and development of my country's cultural industry, promoting self-confidence and self-improvement of Chinese culture, and advancing to the world stage. The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China not only emphasized the status and role of Chinese excellent traditional culture through the "two combinations", but also turned to the eighth chapter to focus on the development of cultural undertakings from five aspects. Chinese modern and contemporary culture is a shining pearl in the five years of excellent traditional cultural history of the Chinese nation. It was born in a specific historical period since the May 4th Movement, and it reflects the corresponding development characteristics of the times. my country's development is on a new journey towards the second centenary goal. How can young writers in the new era create works with the characteristics of the new era, meet the aesthetic needs of the public, and inspire the Chinese people to unite and build socialism? The excellent cultural role of a modern and powerful country is the subject matter and material content of realistic literary works that are placed in front of young writers in the new era. In the process of studying literary theory and Chinese modern and contemporary literature, young writers in the new era must combine literary theory, Chinese modern and contemporary literary works with the needs of national and social development in the new era, and closely focus on the country's cultural undertakings and cultural industries. Arranging and deploying to create literary works, so that not only can we seize the opportunities for the development of cultural undertakings and cultural industries, but also actively participate in the practice of building China's cultural power in the new era, so as to promote the self-confidence and self-improvement of Chinese culture and create a new glory of socialist culture with Chinese characteristics , so that Chinese literary theory and modern and contemporary Chinese literature can move onto the world stage with confidence and self-improvement.

### 4. Conclusion

To sum up, literary theory promotes the development and research of Chinese contemporary literature to a certain extent. Literary theory draws theoretical sources from knowledge and research results between different disciplines, and combines it with the reality of contemporary Chinese literature research. Having a full understanding and understanding can not only improve the existing literary theory research system, but also ensure the long-term development of Chinese contemporary literature, and create works that better meet the aesthetic needs of the public.

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