



A Study of British and American Art Criticism under the Background of Cultural Differences

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Abstract: In the course of the development of British and American art, due to the cultural differences between the two countries, British and American art has different expressions in terms of design concepts and painting expression methods, which ultimately led to more obvious differences in art criticism. The research process of this article mainly combines the characteristics of British and American cultural differences, and analyzes and studies the differences between British and American art criticism.

Keywords: British and American art, cultural differences

1. Introduction

Works of art are also important carriers of national culture. Works of art can not only highlight the cultural characteristics of the country, but also show national thought and national spirit. In the creation of British and American art works, the main forms of expression are oil paintings, modern paintings, sketches and so on. Through these works of art, we can better understand the cultural and artistic expression of British and American countries. British art culture also has a profound influence on the development of Britain. From the beginning of the Renaissance to modern times, it has provided support for the ideological and cultural development of British society. The Second World War became a turning point in the development of British art. Since then, British art works have gradually changed from primitive realism style to modern style full of historical features. Therefore, the creation of British art works is more based on British historical development. The development of American art works is based on British art. As long as people continuously improve their own strength, they can have a unique understanding and analysis of art works and realize their own art development.

2. British and American art criticism

Art criticism is a special form of expression of art works. The so-called art criticism refers to the understanding and research of art works, the in-depth research and discussion on the creative concept, creative style, specific content and expression form of art works, and the interpretation of the core of art works. It is necessary to understand as much as possible the thoughts that the works want to convey, and realize the essence and meaning of the works of art.

In the creation of British and American art works, the core ideas are based on art theory and detailed expression of art works to realize the creative expression of art works. When making art reviews, due to cultural differences in different countries, the presentation methods and perspectives of art reviews in different countries will be different.^[1]

3. Analysis of the development and characteristics of British and American art

In the study of the differences between British and American art criticism, we should first understand the development processes of British and American art and the different characteristics of the two.

3.1 The development history of British and American art

From the perspective of the overall development of British and American art, Britain itself has a long history, so British art creation has been influenced by Britain's long religious history. This means that British art creation has relatively different regional and religious meanings. After centuries of development in British painting, various genres have emerged. The art of modern painting is inclusive, with various ideas coexisting, at the same time showing a variety of different styles of painting, and combining reality and practice to create many excellent works.

American art in the true sense began when Europeans entered the United States in the early 17th century. Later American art creations embodied the European-centered cultural traditions and styles, gradually possessing independent artistic styles, and subsequently having an impact on world art. The history of Western art, which was originally centered on Europe, was inherited and developed by the United States. During the Second World War, especially after the Second

World War, the United States became the center and source of modern art in the world after Italy and France. The ever-changing genres and styles exerted a wide and profound influence on world art.^[2]

3.2 Current characteristics of British and American art

British art itself originated from the long history of cultural development in Britain, with relatively different political and historical characteristics. In the context of the rapid development of religion, religion has become the core connotation of British art. In addition, Britain's own social and economic factors will have some influence on the creation of British art works.

The creative development of American art works is closely related to the country of immigration. American culture itself is inclusive and rich in cultural integration. Therefore, the creativity and tolerance in this case are also more obvious in the creation of American art.

4. The impact of British and American cultural differences on British and American art criticism

Language is a very important element of a country and its development. Both Britain and America use English as the main language, but due to cultural and historical differences, there are also great differences between British and American art works.

4.1 The impact of language differences

From the perspective of language, the languages of different countries have become carriers and represent national cultures. Since Britain has a long history in art creation, its language is relatively mature and conservative in the expression of art criticism.

However, in America, American English is a regional language variant of British English, and it has more prominent and diverse characteristics. From this perspective, the American language has more personality than the British language, and there are some obvious innovations. Therefore, in the expression of art criticism, American art criticism is more free and individual.

4.2 The impact of historical differences

Due to historical and cultural differences, there are also differences between British and American art criticism. Britain is a very old European country with a long history. In the long development process of Britain, it has a distinctive religious and cultural color. These historical and cultural factors have also had a significant impact on the production and development of British art, leading many British art critics to be influenced by the local religion.

In the history of America, people have paid more and more attention to humanistic thoughts and detailed explanation and analysis of humanism. However, given that the history of America is shorter than that of Britain, liberalism is the core symbol of the entire cultural atmosphere. Therefore, American art criticism is more unique, emphasizing the embodiment of individuality and freedom.

4.3 The influence of different cultural meanings

From the perspective of Britain, British art culture has experienced historical precipitation, emphasizing innovation and thinking on traditional art, and developing on the basis of transmitting and innovating traditional art. Therefore, the British art criticism not only has a more obvious influence on traditional culture, but also has some innovations in ideology.

American art criticism is different from British art criticism, but American art criticism is usually more unique and individual, because it has a more open and diverse cultural integration environment.

4.4 The impact of ethnic cultural differences

British art has a very long history, in which orthodox and traditional culture occupies a major position. In traditional British art, the people should be conservative and self-disciplined, keep a gentleman's attitude, and so on.^[3] Moreover, in the eyes of the British, they should consistently maintain self-confidence and pride in their own culture, and it is as important to adhere to traditions as to improve themselves and not to be surpassed by others. This can be reflected in many British art works. Of course, Britain's consistent adherence to tradition has also contributed to most art critics being well-formed and lacking in personality.

American national culture is relatively open and free. Under the collision of such multicultural thoughts, American art creation and art criticism have more and better innovation space, thus providing strong support for the establishment of the American art criticism system.

4.5 Influence of geographical conditions

Geographically, Britain is a traditional island country. The unique geographical environment has shaped the delicate character of the British people. When communicating with other people, the British pay great attention to the rationality of logic. At the same time, the strict style of the British is easily restricted by tradition. America, as a continental country, has a relatively complex population structure, including natives from European countries and later immigrants. Therefore, America can accept foreign cultures and pay more attention to the free development of everyone. Generally, Americans have casual personalities and are not easily bound by traditional ideas.

4.6 Influence of historical conditions

From a historical perspective, it can be said that the history of Britain is longer than that of America. The history of Britain can be traced back to Roman rule. With continuous development, Britain has now become a developed capitalist constitutional monarchy. The history of America is relatively short. Their original inhabitants are primitive Indians. Later, from the 16th to the 18th century, Western European countries invaded North America one after another, and America became a colony country. America was in its infancy until the 18th century. Since then, America has gone through the War of Independence and Civil War, freed itself of British rule, overcome internal differences, and now become a powerful country.

4.7 Influence of economic conditions

In terms of economic conditions, Britain is now the sixth largest economy in the world and a powerful world economy, playing the role of a financial center in the world. Due to its geographical location, the banking, financial and shipping industries in Britain are very developed. In terms of economic development, America is now the world's largest economy and also occupies an important position in the world.

4.8 The impact of differences in the art and cultural environment

There are great differences in the humanistic environment between Britain and America, which also leads to the differences between British and American paintings. Take Britain as an example. Because of its long history and special geographical location, the British people must think more strictly. At the same time, many British people retain the temperament of British aristocracy. For America, it was originally a colony and a place for cultural exchanges, so American thinking is more innovative and courageous than British thinking. Generally speaking, Americans are adventurous, have strong personalities, and like to pursue new things. From the perspective of local culture, the British population is mainly composed of indigenous peoples, while the American population is composed of several ethnic groups. As a result, America tends to accept foreigners and the overall culture is more diverse.

5. Conclusion

According to the above-mentioned characteristics of British and American art criticism, it can be seen that American art criticism is unique, innovative and individual. The differences in historical development between America and Britain is the main reason for the great differences in art criticism. All in all, British art has a profound historical background, but is relatively conservative, while American art creation has no such limitations, so its art creation is also more innovative. Cultural differences will affect art criticism, and this must be taken into consideration when analyzing art works. The cultural and historical heritages of Britain and America are different, and the differences in the style of art criticism between the two countries are more obvious.

Although British art criticism tends to be more conservative and traditional, while American art criticism is more free and individualized, due to cultural differences, art criticism will also show different style characteristics. That is also of great significance for promoting cultural exchanges between the two countries.

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