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The Chinese Science Fiction Cat Country by Lao She is a Satire -An Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Chinese science fiction novel Cat country is a representative work in satirical writing in 20th century Chinese literature. Lao She has applied first person narration to satirize the society of "Cat" with his own psychological conversations,emphasizing his dissatisfaction in the realistic society. Plenty expressions and deep emotions of the author are expressed through the combination of reality and creative world. The novel, Cat Country is regarded as the first essential Chinese science fiction novel that showcases the society of China from an honest perspective.

One of most attractive style has been applied in this novel-satirical writing. The paper attempts highlighting the satire used by the Lao She in Cat Country , depicting cruel reality and the darkness of society from the perception of the author and analyzes the satire in Lao She's writing, integrating a satirical wring style that has brought an effective impact in this novel.

KEYWORDS: Chinese fiction, Satire, psychological conversations, Reality

INTRODUCTION

Science fiction in China has already had more than a century of history. It began with the interest in the western literature during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Science fiction emerged in China due to the influence of Western Europe's Industrial Revolution. After Establishment of the People's Republic of China, along with the development of science and technology, science fiction has promoted the country's reading habits. Since then Science Fiction has started to flourish and continues till date.

Lao She's Cat Country refers to the life of aliens. Plenty expressions and deep emotions of the author are expressed through the combination of reality and creative world. The novel, Cat Country is regarded as the first essential Chinese science fiction novel that showcases the society of China from an honest perspective. The paper attempts to highlight the satire used by the Lao She in Cat Country , depicting cruel reality and the darkness of society from the perception of the author and analyzes the satire in Lao She's writing, integrating a satirical wring style that has brought an effective impact in this novel.

BRIEF INTRODUCTION ABOUT LAO SHE AND HIS CAT COUNTRY

Lao She's original name was Shu Qingchun. He was born on February 3, 1899 and died on August 24, 1966, a Chinese eminent modern writer of humorous, satiric novels and short stories and dramas in 20th century Chinese literature. He was the forerunner in the vivid use of the Beijing dialect. He had the name "the master of literary language". His works included a novel of 300, 00000 words, 42 pieces of dramas and as well as around 300 old-formed poems. His writing styles mainly focused on the sense of humour. Cat Country had been finished by Lao She in 1932 .

The writing style in Cat Country is satire and humor in general, a mixture with basic elements of science fiction. Lao She has applied first person narration to satirize the society of Cat Country with his own psychological conversations, which stressed his expressions as a vent of his emotions through depicting the world of his imagination, expressing in a strong and direct way by observing events from "cats" society, emphasizing his dissatisfaction in the realistic society. It has inspired this writing style to youngsters.

THE SUMMARY OF CAT COUNTRY

Cat Country began with the adventure of the author and his friend from the earth to Mars. The accident happened when they nearly reached Mars. Nevertheless, the plane unfortunately crashed and the author himself was the only survivor who reached a planet. The planet was later considered as Mars by the author, where colour gray covered the entire world with heavy mist. The author started to observe the colour gray surroundings with sorrowed memories of his friends' death. There he met strange aliens- "cat" who have cats' heads and human beings' bodies. The author made his first friend who was called Scorpion. Scorpion had a radical mind, who was an owner of vast lands and a politician, a poet as well as an officer in Cat Country, taught the author their behaviors in the place. The author began to learn how to live in this planet since there was no place the author would go. In Cat Country, "cats" survived by taking one dish named "fascinating leaves" for observing energetic sprite and dispelling the poisonous gas from their bodies. As time passes by, the author also aroused the fascinating leaves to get energy. From the perception of the author, Scorpion was an artificial friend,who merely considered the author as the tool to protect the forest of "fascinating trees" from being plundered since the locals appreciated foreigners. Scorpion had a disproportionate admiration for foreigners because the locals dreaded foreigners and he thought of the author as a cover for making money and enforcing his own politics. When time passed by, the author had followed when Scorpion was back to his home. The author happened to know the father of Scorpion, who was a pure traditional conservative, following all old traditions and rules in a strict manner, which made the author breathless and stifling. In Scorpion's family, the author met the son of Scorpion named Small Scorpion by author. Small Scorpion sent by his father went abroad to learn open thoughts and advanced knowledge, highly intelligent and well-experienced, who was able to explain to the author and to make the author understand the spoiled education system and the decayed politics and the history of Cat Country. Small Scorpion had been considered as the first clever "cat" in author's observation there. However, Small Scorpion was full of negative thinkings and desperate attitudes, which made the author feel worried about the future of Cat Country.

Finally, the war started between Cat Country and foreign countries. Since the corruption of the army in Cat Country, "cats" did not have the power to defeat formidable army of foreigners. Scorpion died even after he had chosen to surrender, Small Scorpion killed himself after the failure of the resistance of enemies by using the gun of the author. After the collapse of the whole kingdom of "cats", the author came back to his own great country by taking a French airplane in the end of the novel.

THE ANALYSIS OF SATIRE IN FICTION CAT COUNTRY

From his own perception, the author narrated the whole adventure of himself who went through, describing social life of "Cats" to ridicule the real society of the author himself. The author had intensive thoughts regarding his own realistic society, by which he involved his real emotion in the world of "cats" in Mars .The author was an intelligent person who held the mercy heart as well as was influenced by the traditional moralities of Chinese culture.

In the novel, it had been described that the author was the only survivor who reached the planet. He observed the gray surroundings and sorrowfully witnessed the dead body of his friend that was bitten by a few eagles. The author mocked himself as "the most useless fellow" looking at the crashed airplane and his intimate dead friend. The author satirized he could not assist to reverse the fates of pathetic life beings, even he is not able to lend a hand for himself to vary his own destiny as well.

When the author made his first friend, Scorpion, who admired foreigners and disrespected the poor, making use of the author to avoid the forest of "fascinating trees" robbed by others.On the one hand, the author depicted "One cough of foreigners can shock five hundreds armies" in novel, which ridiculed the foolish mind of "Cats" who adored foreigner blindly. On the other hand, "Cats" did not cherish the life of people. The impoverished life in the eyes of the rich was as unwanted grass. Killing people was not a sin in "cat"views. Throughout the entire plot, there were a number of the author's sociological conversations, exposing "cats" bulled the poor, the young, the old and awed the power of foreign countries. Money only has been considered as the valuable thing, which frustrated the author beyond the hope. Thus there were no true friendships but only on behalf of all benefits among "cats"under observation of the author. His sympathy towards "cats" confirmed his dissatisfaction about the concepts of culture and politics in the society of "cats".

In the novel, the author described "cats" had survived by taking "fascinating leaves" to dispel the poisonous gas from their bodies. And taking "Fascinating leaves" was measured as one symbol of their statuses among "cats". However, "Fascinating leaves" was the poison to kill people if taken beyond the potion and that was considered as one essential reason of the death of the entire kingdom of "cats" from the point of view of the author. The author expressed his pity and his hatred towards unequal status and wicked thoughts and behaviors of "cats" in ironical writing. Nevertheless, by being influenced by other "cats" in the planet, the author started to take "the leaves".The author ridiculed the transformation of his own behaviors according to different environments as well. What is more, the author mocked the shallow of language in the culture of "cats" comparing with his own language with the author's own learning experience.

The author lived in the culture of 'cats" which was wholly distinguished with his own culture. He mocked himself when he discerned"cats" as aliens, in the meantime, he realized himself just as an alien in all minds of "cats". He suffered himself into isolation and could not be understood by "cats".The author articulated the complex feeling, waving with the contradiction of emotions as well as deep thoughts about social phenomenon by experiencing the cruelness of reality.

By reading the novel, it was identified that there were more than 20 thousand years history of Cat Country. During ancient time, they fought with foreigners and won wars sometimes, nevertheless, during the recent five hundred years, "cats" had started to fight themselves without the concept of unity in their county, which leaded to the degeneration of culture. On observation through the author, the spoiled education system, the ill-military were revealed inside the Cat Country as well. In the end of the novel, after seeing the death of cats as well as the collapse of the entire kingdom, the author came back to his own country from the world of imagination to the world of reality. That demonstrated the author had to undergo his own life and he was still longing the rise of his country, expressing the affection towards the own country of the author.

CONCLUSION

The author had observed thoughts of three generations in Scorpion family. The author sadly revealed the deep-rotten roots of social disease and the hopeless future in society of "Cats", carrying the sense of despair about indiscipline, dumb, silly and cannibalism in the aspects of politics, military as well as education in an ironic way, which had intensively brought the vivid social pictures of Cat country.

The satirical writing is as an attractive and impressive mean of writing. It helps the author to convey the contradiction in his mind regarding social phenomenon in the reality, vibrating the souls of readers to understand what the author has encountered and has experienced. In this regard Cat country is a representative work in satirical writing in 20th century Chinese literature.

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