

On the Humanistic Spirit and Ecological Value of Shen Shixi Children's Literature

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Abstract

Shen Shixi is one of the most influential writers in children's literature in China. He is famous for his special creation of "animal novels". Up to now, he has created more than 5 million words of animal novels. There are many animal images and rich themes in his animal novels, which are deeply loved and respected by children's readers, and have great influence in children's literature. It has been an existence that can not be ignored in the history of contemporary Chinese children's literature, and has its unique value.

Keywords

Shen Shixi; Novels; Animal Novels; Children's Literature.

1. Humanistic Spirit in Shen Shixi's Novels

Children's literature, as an enlightening book for children's readers, contains the spirit that can always exist in readers' hearts for a long time, and finally can be transformed into the power to guide children upward, which is the value of children's literature. Many animal novels, such as "The last war elephant", "Dream of Wolf King" and "Impala Flying", created by Shen Shixi, have won the favor of readers with interesting and fascinating storylines and plump three-dimensional animal images. Among them, the shocking spiritual power displayed by animal protagonists is even more touching and respected, and the humanistic care conveyed by writers' works plays a certain guiding role in the formation of children readers' values.

1.1. Unique Humanistic Significance of the Topic Selection of Animal Novels

The appearance of Shen Shixi's novels broke the dilemma of flattening and aging in children's literature. His animal novels contain themes such as growth, life and nature, which are very helpful to children's growth.

First, Shen Shixi's novels enrich the types of animal images in children's literature, and animal images in children's literature always capture a certain characteristic of animals as a description of all their characters. For example, wolves in "Three Little Pigs" and "The wolf is coming" are fierce and cruel, which makes children have a biased understanding of the animal image of wolves. Shen Shixi's novels avoid this defect. He bases on the animal's own character and makes readers realize the real animal image.

In addition, Shen Shixi's animal novels have broken through several animal images inherent in children's literature in the past and created many novel animal images. Such as: "The Encounter of a Hunting eagle", the unrestrained and emotional wild gold eagle Basacha; Crows who know how to repay kindness in "being neighbor with crows"; A male hornbill who bravely retaliates against the python for his wife and children in "Two-horned Hornbill"; Baimeier, a "half-jackal and half-dog" with a strange and bumpy life experience in "Mixed-race jackal king"; In "The last war elephant", there are extremely spiritual war elephants such as

Gasuo. These rich animal images not only broaden the horizons of children's readers, but also make up for the monotony of animal images in children's literature.

Secondly, Shen Shixi's novels enrich the theme of life in children's literature. Most of the works in children's literature show the happiness and beauty of life, and few works reveal the cruelty of life and the thinking of life. He describes the cruelty of life with animals as the leading role. For example, the wolf in "The residual wolf is full of ash" died fearlessly for his own dignity; "Impala Flying" middle-aged and old impala built a bridge of life for young impala with their lives. The choices made by these animals in the face of life and death will surely bring shock and thinking to children readers.

1.2. It Shows the Unique Style of Chinese Contemporary Animal Novels

As an important part of children's literature, "animal novel" has always been an important theme of writers' creation. However, when famous animal novel writers are mentioned, people first think of western writers such as Jack London of the United States and Don Seton of Canada. The emergence of animal novels created by Shen Shixi has made outstanding contributions to the development of Chinese animal novels. With the wide attention of the theme of "animal novels" in children's literature, the unique style of Shen Shixi's novels has greatly enriched contemporary children's literature in China.

The animal novels created by Shen Shixi have his own distinctive features. He does not rigidly adhere to the traditional formatting and routinization of animal novels, but gives shock and guidance to children readers with the colorful experiences and spirits and qualities of animal protagonists. At the same time, his animal novels also have the color of Chinese traditional culture, which goes beyond ordinary children's literature works and shows the unique style of Chinese contemporary animal novels. For example, his novel "Dream of Wolf King", the whole book revolves around Zilan's dream of "hold high hopes for one's child", and finally ends with Zilan dying with the evil eagle in order to protect the safety of future generations; In "The Bloody Crown", the old monkey king died in salween for the population to continue to multiply. This great maternal love and sacrifice spirit in animals is extremely characteristic of Chinese traditional culture. Not only that, the shocking spirit contained in Shen Shixi's animal novels can be said to be his unique creative style, and the sacrifice for the collective in "Impala Flying"; The lofty spiritual beliefs of the war elephants in "The last war elephant" are very shocking, and they also write the unique style of Shen Shixi's animal novels.

2. Ecological Value in Shen Shixi's Novels

With the deterioration of the ecological environment, people pay more and more attention to the creation of ecological civilization. Shen Shixi's animal novels are keenly aware of this realistic problem by his careful observation of the ecological environment, and reflect the current ecological problems through the living conditions of the animal protagonists in his novels, leading people to further think about their essential reasons.

2.1. Call on Human beings to be Close to Animals and Live in Harmony with Nature

Shen Shixi's description of animals has also changed some people's misconceptions, which is beneficial for readers to understand animals correctly, and to eliminate certain degree of fear, so as to better communicate with animals. For example, animals will not easily attack humans. As the author said in "Clouded leopard buhayi", "All carnivorous beasts in the forest are afraid to go to the village to catch sheep and domestic pigs, even though the taste of sheep meat and domestic pork is more tender than wild sheep and wild boar."

In addition, a more important appeal in Shen Shixi's novels is to call for harmony between man and nature. Shen Shixi has always believed that "man has the responsibility of guarding

this hot land". While enjoying the rich natural resources in nature, man should also shoulder the great responsibility of maintaining the balanced development of natural ecology, instead of blindly demanding for his own interests to destroy the ecological balance of nature. Shen Shixi's idea is vividly displayed in his novel "Scar on Mother Jackal".

2.2. The Attitude of Guiding Children to Treat Life Equally

Shen Shixi once said that in the writer's works, animals can reflect the advantages and brilliance of human nature, and conversely, human beings can reflect on their own actions by understanding the animal world. Therefore, Shen Shixi's animal novels look at the natural environment and human society from the perspective of animals, so that the change of subject makes children readers look at problems from the perspective of animals when reading their works, thus realizing more clearly the harm caused by human beings to the natural society and animals, so as to guide children to change self-centered and treat life in nature equally.

In Shen Shixi's novels, people and animals often stand on opposite sides, and dominate animals to satisfy their own interests with the superiority of "primates of all things". For example, as described in Shen Shixi's novel "Open the leopard cage", the hero in the novel has forced two snow leopards to be locked in a cage for his own research needs, with the aim of enabling the Red Cliff Sheep, which lacks natural enemies, to reproduce better and faster. However, contrary to expectations, his practice has led to the imbalance of ecology and nature, and chaos has appeared inside the Red Cliff Sheep, which has brought the danger of extinction. In the final analysis, it is human selfishness and self-centeredness, ignoring the ecological balance of nature for their own interests. It is through this typical example that Shen Shixi criticized the self-centeredness and bullying style of human beings in nature.

Shen Shixi's animal novels have always been loved by children's readers. The reason is that his works can make children's readers experience the ups and downs of animal protagonists, and contain enough spiritual power to shock children's hearts. Animals' instinctive actions have left a great deal of emotion and shock to human beings. This spiritual force will touch the hearts of children readers and form their own values, which is also the embodiment of the author's touching humanistic care for children. In addition, the ecological value in Shen Shixi's novels is also his unique aspect. He speaks with animals, hoping to guide children to be familiar with and close to animals, treat life in nature equally, and express his hope that human beings can reflect on themselves and reconstruct the harmonious relationship with animals and nature.

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