

## Study of Family Relationships in Chinese Family Movies

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### Abstract

Family-themed movies are often an artistic expression of social reality. In recent years, Chinese family-themed movies have more or less reflected the problems of the younger generation getting along with their parents, whether they are warm, rebellious, confrontational, or dependent on each other, all showing a new mode of getting along in a new era. When a new generation of youth encounters traditional "Chinese-style parents", new contradictions and new ways of getting along are worthy of us to analyze these changes with a more comprehensive perspective. From the point of view that movies reflect reality, this paper explores the use of movies to express the characteristics of new family relationships, changes in living patterns, and different expressions between the two generations.

### Keywords

Family Movie; Intergenerational Relationship; Emotional Expression.

### 1. Research Background

The core paradigm of Chinese traditional culture is an introverted culture based on blood, and family standard has become an important feature that distinguishes traditional Chinese society from other societies [1]. This special culture is China's ethical culture. This article mainly discusses the intergenerational relationship in family ethics: the intergenerational relationship between children and parents, and between children and grandparents. The intergenerational kinship relationship is a typical cultural feature that exists in the Chinese family environment. It represents not only a human relationship, but also a value meaning that transcends the ethical level, and is the sustenance and destination of people's spiritual emotions.

In the article "social gerontology", Wu Cangping mentioned that intergenerational relationship, in a broad sense, refers to the social relationship between different generations due to geography, career origin and other relationships; in a narrow sense, it refers to the internal factors of the family. Relationships arising from blood ties [2]. It can be seen from this that all relationships that can occur within the family or within the society can be regarded as intergenerational relationships, and this article mainly discusses the intergenerational relationship between kin that occurs within the family. The kinship intergenerational relationship in a family usually refers to the interpersonal relationship between two or more generations, generally referring to the older generation and the newer generation, such as between parents or grandparents and children in a family relationship. The intergenerational family relationship is a complex of various behaviors and functions of obligations, responsibilities, rights, kinship, and exchanges between parents and children [3]. There is harmony and unity in the intergenerational relationship, and there is also the contradiction of separation. The description of family relationships in family-themed films is nothing more than the following two situations. One is a harmonious and harmonious family atmosphere of happiness and mutual love, and the other is a conflict-type family atmosphere of indifference and constant contradictions. Intergenerational differences between generations are the dominant factor in the formation of alienation in intergenerational relationships. There are certain differences in behavior and cognition between the previous generation and the next

generation due to differences in psychological, physical roles, social status and social experience. People of different generations have their own group-centered values. Especially in today's era of intensified social changes, when faced with the same thing or social phenomenon, people of different generations will have different understandings and perspectives, and these different understandings form intergenerational differences, which is what we often say the "generation gap".

In the family intergenerational relationship, the most intuitive existence is the kinship relationship between two generations, that is, the relationship between parents and children. Traditional Chinese culture is deeply influenced by Confucian culture. In family ethics, "filial piety to the father" is the norm of Chinese family morality and ethics, and it is also a model of Chinese family intergenerational life. Harmonious families and good intergenerational relationships are well represented in early family films, most of which advocate the call for "love". Family-themed films advocate restoring the lives of family members as realistically as possible and show the changes in family intergenerational relationships. Therefore, films also pursue authenticity and documentary. The film "Plum in the Spring River" takes the change of the four seasons as the clue of the story. In order to present the real changes of the buildings and scenery along the Fuchun River, and to show the emotional changes of the big family in the real natural changes, director Gu Xiaogang chose to follow the real changes. Four seasons came to create the film, and the shooting took two years to complete. The film has no clear dramatic conflict, and is only divided into four parts according to seasons. The changes of the four seasons not only explain the story line time, but also show the contradictions and conflicts between the four brothers and their children. In the film "Dog Thirteen", the director used a combination of handheld photography and sports long shots to create a realistic effect. In the paragraph where Li Wan learned that Einstein was lost and went out to look for it, the film first used the shaking of the handheld camera to present Li Wan's anxious state of mind, increasing the authenticity of the film, and at the same time allowing the audience to participate in Li Wan's search for Einstein. In the process, Li Wan's inner loneliness and helplessness were revealed, paving the way for the intensification of the conflict between Li Wan and his father.

## 2. Intergenerational Family Relationships in the New Era

After the new century, family films gradually strengthen the expression of intergenerational emotions, highlighting the emotional changes and transitions between people. In the current intergenerational conflicts in China, not all conflicts will be displayed in an explosive form. Cultural discovery, the style of oriental culture tends to be more subtle and introverted, which is particularly evident in family culture. Regarding the contradictions existing in the intergenerational relationship in the family, they will not be "formed", that is to say, the way of fierce quarrel is not a common way of dealing with contradictions, but mostly "silent" with repression and forbearance. The way to maintain a relatively harmonious state in the family, not to talk, to hide the facts, and to try to create a better life has become the choice of most people to comfort their families, and this kind of treatment is also advocated by the Chinese family culture of "filial piety of the father and filial piety of the children", the children out of filial piety, so that the parents worry less, the father out of love to the children, so that the children at ease without worry.

The intergenerational relationship in the family is not static, on the contrary, it is constantly changing, with the external environment and some external factors, such as living environment, growth stage and so on. Family members themselves will have differences in psychological state, behavioral performance, values, moral and ethical concepts, etc. over time, and their mutual relations will naturally change accordingly. Due to the long-term distance between generations, the frequency of communication is greatly reduced.

There will be gaps in communication, and there will inevitably be a certain degree of alienation in the relationship between parents and children. From the perspective of intergenerational interaction, compared with the traditional close intergenerational relationship, intergenerational alienation is undoubtedly a state of unbalanced intergenerational interaction. However, it must be recognized that the alienation of intergenerational relationships is not only caused by poor communication among individual family members, but is also the product of a combination of various factors in the context of social transformation [4]. In today's society, the phenomenon of intergenerational rupture is more obvious, and intergenerational alienation has become the norm.

The reason why family-themed films have been favored by the film market in different periods is largely due to its sensitive response and capture of social times. The development characteristics of different social ages are different, and the reflections in family life are also different. During the period of transformation and development, Chinese families have changed accordingly. The family structure tends to be miniaturized and core, the intergenerational relationship has a downward tilt phenomenon, which not only affects the family pension function, but also is detrimental to the socialization of the younger generation [5]. In addition, family-themed films are closer to life itself, and can truly express the family ethical relationship in real life. In terms of theme, it will discuss issues such as emotional crisis and intergenerational elders and children in family ethics, in terms of narrative, it will use the emotional life of family members as the narrative content, and describe through character details, environmental details, and event details. Characters stimulate the audience's emotions; in the shaping of characters, it gradually breaks through the stereotyped characteristics of the dual opposition of good and evil, beauty and ugliness, and becomes more complex and diverse [6]. With the continuous development of social times, the traditional family structure is also changing, so that old and new morality and values are constantly colliding and rubbing. Since the new century, family-themed films have paid more attention to the survival and growth status of characters in the development of contemporary society, as well as the emotional interaction model between family members, in the expression of intergenerational relations.

### 3. Social Significance

Before the new century, Chinese family-themed films have gradually begun to develop and mature. Family-themed films have a strong sense of the times. The biggest source of inspiration for film creation is real life. Keeping close to the background of the times has become the constant creative feature and significance of family-themed films. As mentioned in the book "on Xie Jin films", except for the family, perhaps there is no social organization that is so sensitive to what happens in social life [7]. Family-themed films are like a mirror of social life. The form of the film text responds to changes taking place in society. For example, difficult couple, difficult wife, which was shot by the first and second generation directors, combines family ethics with social ethics. The film theme has a strong social realism, and it is a review and criticism of the arranged marriage system in China's early society.

With the development and progress of the times, domestic home movies pay more and more attention to every social figure who is close to our public life. The more diverse creation methods and the portrayal of characters show the creator's affirmation of individual self-worth, and the family is no long a simple gathering of blood, the continuation of blood. The meaning of home is to take care of the emotional needs of each family member, so that individuals can still maintain their individual independence in the collective, enjoy equality and freedom in family life, and advocate a new type of personality equality, mutual love and mutual assistance in family culture. At the same time, it can be seen that it still maintains a high degree of sensitivity to the changes of the times. The family is the basic unit of society, and it is inevitably affected

by social development, which in turn will have a corresponding impact on the individuals in the family. Therefore, the film will discuss social issues, family issues, and intergenerational issues brought about by the changing times into specific story creations, which will arouse the audience's thinking.

The family-themed films in the new century are integrated on the basis of the interconnectedness and interdependence of family ethics and social relations. In the background of the story of "family", it is not only a simple intergenerational ethical relationship, but the integration of individuals, family, and society from multiple perspectives and rich cultural connotations, creating a richer and more innovative image space.

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