

Analysis of American Culture in the Film "Tomorrow's War" from the Perspective of Soft Power

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Abstract: *For many years, tangible forces characterized by physical objects such as economy, military strength, and technology have been regarded as important factors in the external exchanges of powerful countries. However, after World War II, with the strengthening of the trend of globalization, culture, an invisible force, played an increasingly prominent role in national development and played an increasingly important role. Thus, Joseph Nye proposed soft power. Among them, movies, as a form of soft power, have become an important means for countries to showcase their own culture and values to the outside world. This article takes the movie "Tomorrow's War" as an example to analyze the embodiment of American culture and values in the movie, and its role in enhancing American soft power.*

Keywords: soft power; Tomorrow's War; American Culture.

1. INTRODUCTION

In today's world, the role of soft power in national competition is constantly increasing, and countries are striving to enhance their own soft power in order to enhance their international influence. Soft power not only plays a particularly important role in enhancing the comprehensive strength of a country, but also plays a prominent role in shaping the country's image and safeguarding national interests. As a world power, the United States' culture has always influenced people around the world, thanks to its emphasis on the use of soft power. In the information age, as a form of soft power, movies play a particularly prominent role in showcasing national culture and making the world understand its culture. Based on the comparison and analysis of the new and old mathematics textbooks published by People's Education Press based on ISM method, we can find that the new textbooks pay more attention to the development of the core literacy of mathematics. The logical coherence of the structure system of mathematics textbooks has a fundamental impact on the implementation of core literacy.[20]From the hierarchical digraph of the old and new textbooks, we can see that the total number of levels of the old textbooks is one more than that of the new textbooks, and the hierarchical digraph of the old textbooks is in series, and the knowledge elements are in one-way connection, which lacks the cultivation and promotion of students' comprehensive ability; The relationship between knowledge elements in the new textbook is more complicated, which emphasizes the coherence of mathematical knowledge, and pays more attention to the cultivation of students' comprehensive ability and the improvement of overall quality. Therefore, in plane vector teaching, teachers should be clear about the changes in the content arrangement structure of this chapter and try to construct teaching methods and teaching concepts under the new situation. In the teaching process, students should be the main body, and inquiry and question- and-answer modules should be added, so that students can really participate in the classroom, mobilize the classroom learning atmosphere, and enhance their independent thinking ability and innovative spirit. Secondly, teachers should have a deep understanding of the knowledge system of plane vector, reserve solid knowledge, and pay attention to the cultivation of students' mathematical abstraction, intuitive imagination and logical reasoning ability in the teaching of plane vector. At the same time, teachers should take moral education as their fundamental task and implement educational policies and guidelines, not only focusing on broadening students' knowledge and promoting students' deep learning.

2. OVERVIEW OF SOFT POWER

In the 1990s, Joseph Nye, a famous American scholar, put forward the concept of "soft power", When a country allows other countries to voluntarily demand what they want, there is a so-called 'absorbed, assimilated power' or 'soft power', which is completely different from ordering other countries to do the hard or coercive power they want. For a country, soft power refers to its attractiveness, not coercion, that is, 'a country, through its own attractiveness, not coercion, in international affairs The ability to achieve desired goals. So, where does "soft power" come from? He divided the sources of "soft power" into three areas: "culture, political values, and foreign policy". Culture is mainly reflected in its attractiveness to others, which can be divided into elegant culture and popular culture; Political values are an indispensable part of "soft power", and a country hopes that its own political values can be put into practice both domestically and internationally; In addition, the application of "soft power" cannot be separated from a legitimate and morally authoritative foreign policy.

The comparative study of teaching materials based on ISM method can make the structure of teaching materials clearer,

facilitate teachers to understand the changes in the arrangement structure of teaching materials and provide reference for teachers' teaching; It can also make the knowledge elements in the textbook and their forming relationships clearly presented in the form of visual graphics, which is helpful to help students clarify the relationship between the knowledge elements in the textbook and build a complete knowledge network system.

In 1978, Professor Ryubo Sato of Japan confirmed that ISM method is also suitable for teaching material development and target analysis.[5] Since then, more and more educational researchers have used this method in the field of education. For example, some educators in Australia have successfully applied ISM method to the classroom, which has benefited students in mastering the course content;[6] Vivek Chhetri applies ISM method to physics, which can help physics educators and decision makers plan strategies to improve undergraduate physics education.[7]

Domestic scholars' comparative study of textbooks based on ISM method can be divided into two categories. The most important one is the analysis of the knowledge structure of different versions of textbooks based on ISM method, and accordingly, teaching suggestions are put forward to provide reference for teachers' teaching design, involving disciplines such as geography, chemistry, biology and physics. For example, in 2018, Weng Jinna[8] ISM method is applied to the field of geography textbook comparison, which provides a new breakthrough point for the comparative study of geography textbooks. 2019, Wang Xin[9] The ISM method is used to compare and analyze American high school physics textbooks, which provides reference for the comparative study of Chinese and American textbooks. In the same year, Zhao ruolin[10] A comparative study on the logical structure of geography textbooks between China and the United States is carried out by ISM method. In 2020, Zhang Qunxi[11] Based on ISM method, this paper analyzes and compares the structure of high school biology textbooks between China and Britain, which has some enlightenment for the compilation of biology textbooks in China. In 2021, Song Qianwen[12] It is of great significance for teachers' teaching practice to make a comparative study of the knowledge structure of different versions of chemistry textbooks by ISM method. The other is based on ISM method to analyze the rationality of teaching sequence of textbooks. For example, in 2017, Yuan Yujuan and Xu Zhangtao[13] use ISM method to determine the teaching sequence of the compulsory series of senior high school mathematics in version A of People's Education, and provide some reference for the arrangement of teaching materials and the reasonable teaching sequence of teachers.

To sum up, the application of ISM method in the field of teaching material research has been relatively mature. Through the comparative study of teaching materials by ISM method, the arrangement structure of teaching materials can be presented in a clear hierarchical diagram form, and the changes of the arrangement structure of teaching materials can be clarified, so as to verify whether the arrangement of teaching materials is reasonable. The arrangement of plane vectors in current textbooks of various editions is controversial. The arrangement of plane vector chapters in the new textbook A of People's Education has changed greatly, and it is the most used textbook in China, which is very representative. Therefore, this paper chooses ISM method to explore the changes in the arrangement structure of the chapter "Plane Vector and its Application" in the old and new textbooks.

At present, using ISM method to study the structure of teaching materials mainly includes four steps (see Fig.1): First, extract knowledge elements; Second, determine the formation relationship between elements; Thirdly, establish adjacency matrix and calculate reachability matrix; Fourthly, draw a hierarchical directed graph, and analyze and discuss the hierarchical directed graph. If the discussion results are consistent, it is considered that the hierarchical directed graph is reasonable, and the operation flow is ended, otherwise, the first step or the second step is returned. Among them, the first step and the second step are the most important steps, which will directly affect the rationality of drawing hierarchical directed graph.

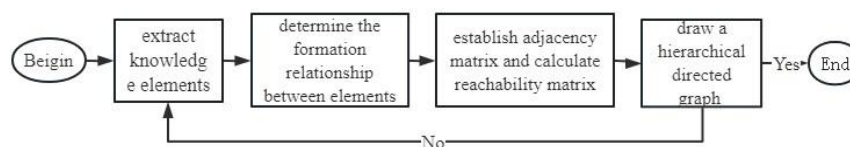


Figure 1: ISM method operation flow chart.

3. THE ADVANTAGES OF "HARD POWER" INCLUDE CULTURE, VALUES, AND NATIONAL COHESION

The advantages of 'Soft Power'. In the field of culture, the elegant and popular culture of the United States has a positive impact on the dissemination of cultural values such as the American Dream and individualism in the country. Elegant culture mainly reflects the attractiveness of American higher education, technological level, art field, etc., such as the world-renowned universities and advanced scientific research level in the United States. The influence of American popular culture is broader, from fast food and cola to casual wear, sportswear, Hollywood movies, NBA, pop music, and more. Hollywood movies provide an effective channel for film audiences around the world, widely spreading American culture and greatly enhancing American soft power.

Since the birth of movies in the early 20th century, movies have used a dynamic visual world to appeal to the audience about a country's national image through audio-visual means, subtly outputting values. The audience can intuitively understand the history of a country through the cultural connotations expressed in the movies. And reality. Since its rise, Hollywood movies have been an important tool for the United States to showcase its image and export its values to the world. Through Hollywood movies, audiences around the world have gradually come to understand the United States and willingly accept some of its lifestyles, concepts, values, and more. Individualism, freedom and democracy, equal competition, and the American Dream are all values and concepts often reflected in movies. For example, Hollywood has transformed America into a paradise full of opportunities and infinite possibilities, where anyone, regardless of their family background or skin color, can achieve success with unremitting efforts, and their personal values can be respected and recognized, making people yearn for it. When a country's values are widely recognized and praised, its "soft power" can be enhanced, and vice versa. For many years, Hollywood movies have showcased American culture to the world through this approach, and the Hollywood movie "Tomorrow's War" is also like this.

4. THE EMBODIMENT OF AMERICAN CULTURE IN TOMORROW'S WAR

The movie "Tomorrow's War" is a science fiction action film directed by Chris McKay, which started filming in 2019. However, it was released in the United States on July 2, 2021, after experiencing twists and turns due to the global environment, And in over 20 countries including Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, India, etc. Ying was released on September 3 of the same year in mainland China. The movie mainly tells the story of people living in 2022.

After analyzing the contents of "New Curriculum Standard", "Ordinary Senior High School Mathematics Curriculum Standard (Experiment)" and "Plane Vector and Its Application" in the old and new textbooks, the research is carried out according to the four steps of ISM method. Compare the changes in the selection of knowledge elements and the arrangement order of knowledge elements in this chapter between the old and new textbooks.

Table 1: Knowledge Elements of "Plane Vector and Its Application" in New and Old Textbooks of People's Education Press

encode	New textbook of people's education edition	Old textbooks of people's education edition
SS ₁	vectors	vectors
SS ₂	directed line segment	directed line segment
SS ₃	model	model
SS ₄	Basic vector	Basic vector
SS ₅	Vector addition operation	Vector addition operation
SS ₆	Inverse vector	Inverse vector
SS ₇	Subtraction operation of vector	Subtraction operation of vector
SS ₈	Multiplication of vectors	Multiplication of vectors
SS ₉	The judging theorem of plane vector collinearity	The judging theorem of plane vector collinearity
SS ₁₀	Quantity product	Basic theorem of plane vector
SS ₁₁	Projection and projection vector	Orthogonal decomposition
SS ₁₂	Operation of vector quantity product	Coordinate representation of vector
SS ₁₃	Basic theorem of plane vector	Coordinate operation of plane vector
SS ₁₄	Orthogonal decomposition	Coordinate representation of plane vector collinearity
SS ₁₅	Coordinate representation of vector	Quantity product
SS ₁₆	Coordinate representation of plane vector addition and subtraction operation	project
SS ₁₇	Coordinate representation of plane vector multiplication operation	Geometric significance of quantity product
SS ₁₈	Coordinate representation of plane vector collinearity	Operation of vector quantity product
SS ₁₉	Coordinate representation of plane vector quantity product	Coordinate representation of plane vector quantity product
SS ₂₀	Vertical coordinate representation of plane vector	Vertical coordinate representation of plane vector
SS ₂₁	Cosine formula of vector included angle	Cosine formula of vector included angle
SS ₂₂	Cosine theorem, sine theorem	

Therefore, in order to ensure the rigor of teaching material research, when extracting knowledge elements, we should discuss with teaching researchers and front-line teachers in combination with the requirements of the New Curriculum Standard. The knowledge elements finally extracted meet the following four requirements: the main knowledge points required to be mastered by the system in the New Curriculum Standard; There must be a clear definition or knowledge point in the textbook, which must be taken as the main knowledge point in the teaching analysis summary of each class hour; In the whole chapter system, it has the function of connecting the preceding with the following; In order to simplify the calculation process, similar concepts are

integrated into one concept. For example, zero vector, unit vector, parallel vector, equal vector, collinear vector, etc. are combined into basic vectors.[14]According to the above requirements, the knowledge elements in the chapter "Plane Vector and Its Application" in the new and old textbooks published by People's Education Press are extracted respectively, and numbered according to the order in which each element appears in the textbooks, such as Table 1 As shown.

5. HUMANS RECEIVE A CALL FROM HUMANS 30 YEARS LATER: EARTH IS ATTACKED BY UNKNOWN SPECIES, HUMANS

On the brink of extinction, in order to save the Earth and humanity, future humans will travel back to 2022 to recruit soldiers. The male lead Dan rushed to fight in the future in order for his daughter to live well on Earth in the future. After finding a way to deal with monsters in the future world and his daughter 30 years later, Dan returned to the present and searched for the source of monsters buried deep under the glacier to save the world. However, after its release in China, the film was challenged by the logic of the Chinese audience. Although there was "Star Judge" Chris Pratt, the box office and reputation of the film were still "Waterloo". However, it must be said that this film is a typical Hollywood science fiction blockbuster, still showcasing American values and culture to the world. After the formation relationship between knowledge elements is determined, the adjacency matrix can be obtained, and then the reachability matrix can be obtained. First of all, we should make a two-way form of elements according to the obtained formation relationship. Both the horizontal axis and the vertical axis in the table represent elements. If the expression or derivation of the elements on the horizontal axis in the textbook involves the elements on the vertical axis, then the intersection position of the two elements is "", otherwise, it is "". In order to avoid the table occupying a large space, this paper omits the relationship between some knowledge elements, such as the two-way formation of tables in new textbooks.

5.1 Personal heroism

Firstly, Americans advocate freedom, independence, and equality, and they incorporate this individualistic spirit into the image of "heroes", creating an American style of personal heroism. The explanation of heroism in "Cihai" is: "Heroism is an eternal spirit and behavior, a task that a person completes based on intuition. This task has great significance, and it also demonstrates a person's courage, strength, good qualities, and willingness to help others. The heroic image of the United States is usually brave and fighting alone to save their family or country, in order to realize their life value or prove their abilities. the male lead in "Tomorrow's War," knows how to avoid a disaster 30 years from now in the future. After birth, he believed he had to save his daughter. After Dan and his two friends Charlie and Dorian discovered the source of the monster, they hoped that the US government would send troops to search under the glaciers in Russia, but were refused by government officials. Therefore, the male protagonist began to gather the soldiers he had known during his previous battles in the future, and tried every means to save the world with the power of a few people. In addition, it is mentioned in the movie that Dan is unwilling to become a high school biology teacher. After trying to change jobs but failing, Dan says, "I am mean to do something special with my life. I am destined to do something special in my life. He wants to do more meaningful things, Therefore, this opportunity to fight in the future can realize his own value, which gives him a greater sense of mission. Moreover, he has said that he has participated in two wars and had leadership experience in the Iraq war. It can be said that this opportunity to cross into future operations has allowed him to prove his abilities once again. This is the typical American personal heroism reflected in the movie, and it is also the American values that the movie aims to convey.

5.2 Family View

The American family is a nuclear family composed of parents and children. Influenced by Puritanism and other factors, Americans regard the family as very important. They believe that the important responsibility of the family is to give emotional support to family members, be responsible for personal behavior, respect personal values, respect their children, etc., thus forming independent, free and equal family values.

The movie "Tomorrow's War" interprets American family values. At first, Dan's wife did not want her husband to participate in this future war and planned to take her family out of the city. However, after learning that Dan was about to be sent to the future war and being persuaded by her husband, although she was very unwilling, she still rationally respected her husband. Their daughter is not very old, but they did not lie or conceal this matter from their child. Instead, they believe that the child has the right to know, tell the truth to the child, and respect the child. It can be seen that emotional support, mutual respect, independence, and equality in American families are the greatest encouragement for family members.

And the male protagonist Dan's decision to risk his life to join the future war and return to the present to search for monsters is not because he has great ambitions to save the earth, but because of his daughter. In the movie, he said, I'm not a hero. I was trying to save my daughter. If I got to save the world to save her, then I'm Damn sure Gonna do it. After listening, Dorian said, "What kind of selfish dick doesn't help a guy save his kid, right. The family concept of Americans is the main source of their sense of responsibility, rather than stemming from national righteousness or human mission.

5.3 Time orientation

In the 1960s, American anthropologist and Harvard University professor Kluckhohn and Strodtbeck proposed six value orientation theories, one of which is the time orientation theory, which includes: past orientation, present orientation, and future orientation. Different ethnic groups have different historical backgrounds, religious beliefs, and time orientations. Ethnic groups such as China, the United Kingdom, and Greece have a long history and splendid culture, which are crucial for their social development and people's work and life. Therefore, they attach greater importance to the past, as the Chinese often say "learning from history". The future time orientation places greater emphasis on innovation and change, as is the case with American culture. Because the United States. The history is relatively short, and Americans have gradually created this culture in the process of constantly expanding their territories. For Americans, striving for a better future is the most important thing. The impact of time orientation on American film and television is that Americans are very passionate about science fiction. The United States releases multiple science fiction films every year, such as the "Star Wars" and "Batman" series, and "Tomorrow's War" is also one of the types of science fiction. From the timeline in the movie, it can be seen that people in the real world live in 2022, for the sake of humanity, especially their own children to survive in the future, they need to teleport to 2050 to fight and defend the Earth. Additionally, The setting that monsters will destroy the Earth is also in line with the characteristics of science fiction works. Therefore, 'Tomorrow's War' is a typical film that reflects American time oriented culture, daring to innovate and fight for the future. In short, "Tomorrow's War" is a typical Hollywood science fiction film that still showcases American values and culture to the world: personal heroism, American family values, time oriented culture, and so on.

6. THE ROLE OF MOVIES IN ENHANCING AMERICAN SOFT POWER

It can be said that Hollywood movies are an effective medium for enhancing the soft power of the United States, known as "not the propaganda department of the propaganda department". As stated in a document from the National Security Council of the United States on July 10, 1950, the most effective form of propaganda is to have the target person walk in the direction you specify, but they believe that the direction is their own choice. The impact of movies on American soft power is like this.

Movies can help people around the world understand and learn about American culture and values, which is beneficial for shaping the image of the United States. When the economic and military strength of various countries have increased, the United States can no longer maintain its position as a major power through traditional power, and soft power is particularly important to the United States. Culture is the core of soft power, and it is also carried in movies. Through movies, the United States hopes to shape a positive image, which is conducive to the output of its culture and values. On the contrary, after education, movies, and food in the United States have been sought after by young people around the world, they have played a positive role in shaping a good image of the United States. The dissemination of surface material culture is essentially the dissemination of core values, so the United States achieved its true goal through the dissemination of surface culture.

For many years, personal heroism, American family values, and American innovative spirit have been the cultural and values that America needs to showcase, and the movie "Tomorrow's War" is no exception. By shaping the image of a personal hero, the intention is to showcase a positive image of the United States, which is conducive to the role of its values in the target audience. In addition, after being constantly influenced by values, the target audience gradually changed their living habits and ways, and this non coercive influence achieved the goal of enhancing the soft power of the United States.

7. CONCLUSION

Over the years, the culture and values transmitted by the United States to the world have indeed been effective, and young people in many countries and regions have been influenced by individualism and American family values, gradually accepting these concepts and practicing them in their daily lives. From this perspective, as a medium for soft power output, movies play an important role in conveying American culture and values. But in recent years, audiences from all over the world have gradually become rational in watching movies, rather than blindly praising them. They are also analyzing and treating the output of American culture and values in a concrete, rational, and dialectical manner.

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