

An Interpretation of Consolation of the Mind From the Perspective of Ecocriticism

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Abstract: *The comfort of the mind, as the representative work of the natural culture, Williams in the comfort of the mind, in the 1980s the great salt lake in Utah and bear river migratory birds reserve is destroyed, and cancer by against the current, grandmother family women, such as the author of how to cope with the dual pain and seek peace of mind. Through a unique narrative perspective, the tragedy of the female family is connected with the experience of the Great Salt Lake, so as to call for human attention to nature and show the overall ecological values of man and nature. From the perspective of ecological judgment, this paper explores the criticism of anthropocentrism in the book and conveys the thoughts of ecological feminism.*

Keywords: Ecological Criticism; Consolation Of the Soul; Anthropocentrism; Eco-Feminism.

1. INTRODUCTION

Consolation of the Heart is a literary work written by Terri T. Williams, an American writer and poet of natural literature. It describes the writer's own experience and her family's experience, and connects the special environment of the Great Salt Lake and Bear River Bird Sanctuary in the West of the United States. It is regarded as a classic work of American natural literature. In which conveyed the relationship between man and nature has always been a delight. This paper interprets Consolation of the Mind from the perspective of ecocriticism. Firstly, there is a certain utilitarian phenomenon among graduate students when choosing mentors. Some graduate students mainly consider the reputation and administrative position of their mentors when choosing mentors. Some graduate students believe that choosing a supervisor with strong administrative and scientific research abilities, or a supervisor with influential administrative status, will help them avoid worrying about their work. With the increasing employment pressure, the concept of choosing a mentor with power has become an indisputable fact in the minds of graduate students. Nowadays, the teacher-student relationship between supervisors and graduate students is no longer as simple as before.[1] Compared to the past, supervisors have more power, such as the ability to directly decide whether a graduate student's thesis can be passed and whether they can successfully obtain a degree. The prevalence of referring to mentors as "bosses" among graduate students in universities reflects the utilitarian nature of teacher-student relationships. The supervisor has undertaken a large number of projects, and graduate students are arranged by the supervisor to participate in research projects, mainly engaged in data collection, data organization, paper writing, and even academic fraud. Most of the time and energy of graduate students are occupied by such projects, making it difficult to concentrate on research and carry out innovative research. However, such projects do not greatly help cultivate graduate students' scientific research abilities. The "employment style" teacher-student relationship has become a common phenomenon in graduate education. Compared to liberal arts students, science and engineering supervisors prefer their master's degree students to pursue doctoral studies. They believe that these students are familiar with their own projects and can continue to work on unfinished projects.[2]

The weakening of teacher-student emotions is currently the most prominent manifestation of worrying teacher-student relationships. The weakening of teacher-student emotions refers to the lack of emotional interaction between teachers and students, resulting in a decrease in their level of identification and a lack of emphasis on communication between them. There are two main manifestations: the first is the lack of emotional communication between teachers and students; The second manifestation is a lack of interaction time and low frequency between teachers and students.

In the early stages of graduate development in China, there was a lot of time and frequency of communication between teachers and students, and the relationship between supervisors and graduate students was harmonious. In recent years, with the large-scale expansion of graduate education in China, the imbalance in the teacher-student ratio has become increasingly prominent, which has led to a decrease in communication between teachers and students. In addition, the weakening of bad academic atmosphere and professionalism has led graduate students to doubt the knowledge and moral authority of their mentors, which has reduced their trust and identification with

their mentors; At the same time, the expansion of graduate enrollment in universities comes at the cost of reducing admission scores and reducing the quality of student sources. The supervisor believes that the current foundation of graduate students is not good, and doubts their comprehensive quality and reduces their sense of identification with graduate students.

2. ECOLOGICAL CRITICISM THEORY

Eco-criticism theory is developed on the basis of western environmental philosophy and formed by absorbing "environmental ethics" in environmental philosophy. Of anthropocentrism in environmental ethics, collectivism as the ideological basis, to criticism of anthropocentrism, individual thinking, moral concern and pay attention to milk the position of natural mechanisms to develop "ecological centre doctrine", which also Leopold, Arun Bernays to some extent, such as development of ecological centralism [1]. Ecological centre doctrine of environmentalism before on a series of secondary development, such as the theory of "animal welfare", "life center doctrine", and so on, these theories will be natural, land, animals and other linked with the development of human beings, thus to find have a close relationship between human and nature, and both are interdependent, so when the Americans to re-examine the development of nature, It helps people to see the relationship between people and nature from the cognitive and psychological levels.

With the continuous deterioration of ecological environment, it puts forward the importance of ecological criticism theory in improving environmental deterioration, hoping to awaken human awareness of self and nature from the perspective of ethics [2]. And this is also the spiritual comfort, able to express the core idea of Williams' want, through the western cruelty of human destruction of the land and the environment, in recording the Great Salt Lake and the demise of bear river migratory birds reserve, and at the same time, changes in family links between the two, to show a fate the close relationship between human and nature, In order to express the protection of nature, the protection of human ecological environment necessity.

3. THE CRITICISM OF ANTHROPOCENTRISM

In *Solace of the Soul*, the author does not simply describe nature to convey the concept of environmental protection, but reflects on the interaction and interaction between nature and human society to convey the author's rational thinking. Among them, the most prominent one is the criticism of anthropocentrism. In the long history of development and evolution, man has always been regarded as the most intelligent creature, and the value created by man is far greater than others. Since ancient Greece and Rome, man has been regarded as the measure of all things, and all living things should exist for human beings. Therefore, the value of living things is judged only by whether it is beneficial to human beings. However, the self-centered parochism of human beings has been demonstrated in *Solace of the Soul*. From the description of the Great Salt Lake, as a green water in the western wilderness, the rise of the lake has affected the interests of all classes of human beings, and various measures have been formulated to impose sanctions on the Great Salt Lake. Some even put forward the idea of dyeing the lake or blasting it with nuclear weapons, which shows the cruelty and selfishness of human beings. In the end, the Utah government decided to implement the Western Desert Water Project, which was described in the article as a way to save the interests of the companies involved and the governor's political career.

For the Great Salt Lake decision-making is of human interests, human beings have been acting the higher animals, for the lives of other beings ignored, in the process of executing the Great Salt Lake in defiance of biological along all reflect anthropocentrism, ultimately these wild animals can only to settle in the city dump, become the "final shelter". After entering the industrial society, for the utilization of natural and ignore to reach unprecedented heights, "kill" has become the norm, the author in the book of this kind of behavior expressed strong criticism, she will naturally compared to a bird, but the eyes is one of the important media, maintain the natural but in the process of human progress only pay attention to the claim of the feather, see is the outward appearance, However, the bird's eyes are not paid attention to, and the deep destruction of nature by human beings is not seen, expressing the criticism of anthropocentrism [3]. The United States, on the other hand, suffered from wars and inflation since the 1970s and 1980s, making its economy depressed. Until the end of the 1980s, the industrial structure of the United States gradually changed, the original industry gradually tilted to the tertiary industry, and high and new technology became an important driving force of economic development, which further enhanced human's ability to utilize and transform nature. Of natural resources in the development of science and technology makes human plunder more thoroughly, the developing mode of ignoring human nature Williams was pain, so she to birds as a metaphor, four eyes than birds as four kinds of precious stones, by gems can reflect the heart of the birds, and "the bird is between the earth and the heaven of media", However, in the process of natural development, human beings

ignore the "eyes of birds" and only see their feathers and blindly seize them, which is actually putting the cart before the horse [4].

In *Consolations of the Mind*, the author conveys a strong sense of holistic ecology. She believes that every creature in nature has its own life and spirit, and these creatures together constitute the whole nature, including land, air, water and other substances, which have their own images in Williams' eyes. Therefore, when proposing the "Western Desert Water project", Williams expressed strong dissatisfaction, believing that the water project is against the natural law of the ebb and flow of nature, and against the idea of the lake itself. What the government should do is to change the original road planning route, rather than withdraw the lake. "A man who refuses to recognize his kinship with the earth betrays his heart," Williams wrote. the relationship between man and nature is symbiotic. As a member of living on the earth, man is a part of the harmonious environment of the whole earth, rather than the ruler of the earth. Humans, like lakes and birds, are on an equal footing. Only by respecting natural creatures can humans live in harmony. Williams in the book, with the names of birds as section titles shown under the heading of the great salt lake level, water level rises not only mother's illness aggravating gradually, and the birds in the great salt lake is also sinking into the predicament of existence, to the death of the swan to drink their loved ones leave, show people with natural biological [5] for fate community features. the destruction of nature by human beings is essentially a kind of damage to human beings themselves. the author's reflection is conveyed through the different habits of birds. For example, California gull's attitude when facing the pressure brought by the natural environment makes it understand the importance of sticking to and adapting to changes. the attitude of birds when facing the natural crisis predicts the development of events, thus conveying the author's overall ecological consciousness and values.

In addition to the criticism of human behavior, Williams also pays attention to the poetic expression of nature, with a detailed description of natural experience, showing a beautiful natural landscape in front of the readers, conveying the author's unique romantic feelings for nature. the natural creatures in Williams' works seem to have their own thoughts. She respects the will of nature and respects them, thus conveying her awe of nature. This kind of description makes "Consolations of the Soul" separate from the didactic environmental protection works and convey the author's own values, reflecting on human behavior with the idea of "unity of nature and man", which has a touching effect.

4. THE EXPRESSION OF ECO-FEMINISM

In the *Solace of the Soul*, the author conveys the story from a female perspective, thus highlighting the damage of the patriarchal society to women and nature, and expressing a clear eco-feminist consciousness. From the way of expression in Williams' works, most of the images she gave to natural creatures were female roles. For example, she compared the Great Salt Lake to a mother, the cradle of life. Despite suffering, she still protected the surrounding creatures with a strong and beautiful attitude. Sand dunes, on the other hand, are seen by the author as a symbol of charm. "Sand dunes are the symbol of women, the flowing and sensitive curves -- women's backs," the book says. While feminizing these natural creatures, women are also gradually naturalizing [6]. For example, when the water level of the Great Salt Lake rose, the mother's cancer was relieved; when the water level of the Great Salt Lake dropped, the mother's disease gradually deteriorated, showing the delicate relationship between women and nature from a unique perspective. Another example is that the author often feels the integration between himself and nature. "I am a desert, I am a mountain, I am a big salt lake" in the author's mind, while feeling the beautiful natural landscape, he is also unconsciously influenced by them, thus showing the unique idea of the integration of man and nature.

Feminists believe that there is an inevitable connection between the oppression of women and the oppression of nature. In the long history of development, women have been oppressed. Under the rule of male chauvinism, the value of women is mainly reflected in their reproductive function, becoming "others" [7]. Williams refuted this state of affairs from a religious point of view, describing as a Mormon the importance of women in religion, the imbalance between Father and son without the Virgin Mary. Williams, advocating the earth as a cultural symbol, in the comfort of the mind, through the description of the relentless hunters express male oppression on long-term anger, think the male to female oppression reflect upon exploitation of the nature, so through the encounter of the nature of sympathy, actually also is a kind of sympathy for the fate of women. This creative way of combining women with the fate of nature is a clear expression of feminine ecologism. Protecting nature is actually the protection of women. Only by respecting nature can women be respected and the whole society can pay attention to ecological protection. Under the dual perspective of ecologism and female consciousness, Williams' works satirize the real society, reflect human's reflection on behavior, and have a good enlightening effect.

5. SEEK THE RETURN OF THE SOUL

The success of Williams' works lies in that his reflection on the ecological crisis is not only reflected in the relationship between human beings and nature, but also included in the inner world of human beings. By protecting nature, he seeks inner peace and achieves the internal unity between human beings and nature. In the book she says, "What you are on the outside is what you are on the inside." Human behavior actually reflects the impoverishment of the inner world of human beings, and eventually leads to an ecological crisis by taking from nature without restraint. Ecological crisis has proved the crisis of human inner world. Since the ancient Greek period, idealism and materialism have been arguing endlessly, and materialism eventually gained the upper hand and became an important part of Western philosophy [8]. In this process, human beings separate themselves from natural rationality, take logic-centrism as the code of conduct, and separate human beings from their hearts. Finally, the development of human nature loses the support of nature. In the process of constant materialization, human beings are more inclined to pursue material things, and even destroy nature to satisfy their own desires, which ultimately leads to the loss of balance between human and nature. However, in the *Solace of the Soul*, people's desires are reflected. Williams was deeply struck by the death of her relatives. When her mother died of illness, William wrote, "I buried my innocent childhood, and with Mimi's death, I will bury the harbor of my heart." When she lost her close relatives, she could only embrace nature. Surrounded by natural landscapes such as Bear River and bird habitat, she gradually came out of loneliness. Every time she felt the pulse of the earth, she felt as if her mother was still by her side. By placing their emotions in nature, they finally find a home for their soul.

6. CONCLUSION

The progress of human society can be said to be based on natural sacrifice, but humans have failed to realize this. Human beings link social progress with scientific and technological progress, but fail to see the established relationship between man and nature, which leads to continuous consumption of natural resources, continuous degradation of the natural environment and irreparable losses. In the *Solace of the Soul*, he boldly criticizes human's behavior of harming nature and safeguarding their own interests, and warns human to look at nature from the perspective of development, and protecting the natural ecological environment is to protect human's home. *Consolation of the Mind* is not only Williams' own reflection on nature and human society, but also points out a road for the future development of human beings, so that human beings can return to nature, embrace nature again, finally find their own spiritual home, and obtain peace of mind in the process of harmonious coexistence between man and nature.

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