

Cultural Differences and Integration between China and America Based on Hawkes' Cultural Dimension Theory

-- A Case study of the film Grandson from the United States

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Abstract

The film Grandson from the United States is also known as When Sun Wukong Meets Spider Man. Grandpa Yang Shude symbolizes Sun Wukong and is the representative of Chinese traditional culture. Grandson Brooks symbolizes Spider Man and is the representative of Western culture. The film tells the story that grandfathers and grandchildren often conflict due to Eastern and Western language and cultural differences, and finally resolve conflicts and achieve cultural integration through mutual tolerance, acceptance and recognition. In this paper, Hawkes' cultural dimension theory is used to analyze the cultural differences and blending between China and the United States in the film Grandson from the United States. The enlightenment is that while protecting the traditional culture of the nation, we should also respect the cultural diversity of the world and realize the cultural exchange and integration of different cultures.

Keywords

Grandson from the United States; Cultural conflict and integration; Hawkes' cultural dimension theory; Cultural diversity.

1. Introduction

In the context of globalization, frequent exchanges between China and the United States, cultural conflicts and integration are common. Grandson from the United States fuses eastern and western cultural elements, and describes vividly about the confrontation and integration of different cultures in people's daily life, is a warm film. This paper uses Hawkes' cultural dimension theory to analyze the cultural differences between China and the United States in the film, and explores the process of integration of different cultures. This theory helps people better understand cultural differences, overcome cultural barriers, and promote cultural exchange and integration [1]. Based on the film content, this paper will conduct in-depth analysis on the dimensions of individual / collectivism and power distance.

2. Analysis of Film Based on Hawkes' Cultural Dimension Theory

2.1. Collectivism and Individualism Dimension

Individual and collectivism embody the relevance of individual and collective. The higher the relevance, the more vulnerable individuals are to collective influence ; conversely, individuals place greater emphasis on self-awareness. China's individualism score is 20, while the United States as high as 91. In the film, Yang Shude, who had long been influenced by collectivism, did not oppose his son's decision to go to Cocoxili to protect Tibetan antelope, but emphasized "work first". Although the old age has been high, has put down the shadow this craft, but after

the stationmaster repeatedly persuaded, "you never save, future generations can no longer see the shadow."; he accidentally trampled on his grandson's Spider-Man toys. In order to make him happy, he regained his skills to make Spider-Man shadows for his grandson and finally agreed to inherit them. At the end of the year, his son came home from Cocoxili and resigned with his father to Xi'an, Yang Shude was in the heart of all but eventually forced tears to complete the shadow play. They all showed Yang Shude's spirit of sacrificing himself for the collective. American individualism is more distinct, emphasizing individual consciousness, respecting differences and high self-identity. In the film, grandson will stop grandpa from looking over his schoolbag, and will go to dry the quilt himself after bedwetting. When the stationmaster taught his grandson to call, he ran to the side to call his parents alone. The grandson's independent and independent consciousness is the distinctive embodiment of American individualism.

2.2. Power Distance Dimension

Power distance refers to the degree to which people with relatively low status in a country accept unequal distribution in a power society. China's power distance index is 80, the United States is 40. China is a typical high-power distance society, families emphasize the order of children, respect and inferiority are different; the United States is a low-power society, advocating freedom and equality, family relations more harmonious freedom, children have more discourse [2]. In the film, Yang Shude believes that his son married Americans and gave birth to children is "worthy of the ancestral" immoral behavior, and to fight his son. When grandson accidentally fell down by climbing trees and pulling spider webs without his consent, Grandpa said at the first time, "Why don't you climb to the sky I told you..." Such behaviors show that Chinese parents require children to be more subject to management, which is a typical country with high power distance. The grandson's behavior shows that American children have more freedom and independence, which reflects the low distance of American power. It can be seen from the film that the relationship between grandfather and grandson, Aihua has changed. From initial disdain, estrangement to harmony, it reflects the fact that Chinese and American cultures have evolved from differences to gradual integration.

3. Performance of Chinese and American Culture from Difference to Integration

3.1. Differences in Marriage Concepts to Integration

Chinese traditional view of marriage emphasizes "the words of parents and matchmakers"; the open and mobile ethnic characteristics of the United States determine that its marriage view is bound to be free and outward [3]. American parents intervene less in their children's marriage and advocate free love. In the film, when his son Yang Dongliang first brought back Edward and his son Brooks, Yang Shude said his son's "two pots", "finding a widow", "marrying a widow who dragged the oil bottle, lost the face of the ancestors", "let them go hurry while no one found". At the end of the film, Aihua and his son rushed home from Xi'an to celebrate the Spring Festival. Although Yang Shude said nothing, his inner joy has been revealed. Although there is no clear node between Yang Shude and Aihua in the film, it can be seen from the change of Grandpa's attitude towards grandson that the gap between him and Aihua has been eliminated. The grandfather influenced by traditional thought gradually changed his marriage view after he got along with his grandson and Aihua. His acceptance and recognition of Aihua shows that Chinese and American cultures have begun to understand and integrate each other at the level of marriage.

3.2. Cultural Differences to Integration

As an intangible cultural heritage with Shaanxi characteristics, shadow play is restricted by region and lacks specific production and communication places and audience groups. The lack of traditional performance and communication channels makes it difficult for shadow play to go out of the city and go to the world. Yang Shude also lost confidence in the inheritance shadow. As a representative of American culture, Spider-Man, organically integrated with films, escaped geographical restrictions and spread Spider-Man through film channels, which was widely loved by the public. In the film, grandpa accidentally trampled on Spider-Man while teaching grandson. In order to make grandson happy, he finally made a Spider-Man film for grandson. This toy organically combines Chinese element shadow play and American element Spider-Man, and the relationship between the two finally begins to ease. It is the grandson that rekindled Yang Shude's inheritance and love of shadow play. At the end of the movie, Sun Zi asked Grandpa : Sun Wukong can really beat Spider Man? Grandpa answered :“Why to defeat, to become a good friend, together to protect our planet”. The communication between the two reflects that Chinese and American cultures gradually move from difference to integration in the process of communication.

4. Conclusion

In the context of globalization, the conflict and integration of Chinese and American cultures are inevitable. We should respect cultural diversity and adhere to cultural confidence. Yang Shude is from the poor and backward countryside, adhere to the traditional Chinese culture; the grandson is from America, carrying a new foreign culture. In the unpleasant relationship between grandfather and grandson, grandfather gradually got rid of prejudice, accepted grandson and daughter-in-law, and also accepted cultural differences. At the end of the film, grandpa said that Sun Wukong and Spider-Man should cooperate to protect the world together. This not only reflects the inevitability of the development of cultural integration, but also verifies Fei Xiaotong' s view of “beauty and commonness, world harmony. ” Harmonious coexistence of different cultures can conform to the trend of the times and realize the sustainable development of culture.

References

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