

Black, White, Red: The Typical Language and Image Color in Lu Xun's "Medicine"

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Abstract

Black, white and red are of great significance in Lu Xun's novels. In Lu Xun's writings, these three colors not only have literary aesthetic value, but also three important linguistic colors that frame typical characters and authors to convey emotions. Taking "Medicine" as an example, this article analyzes how the author uses these three colors to describe the characters, render the environment atmosphere, shape typical images, and convey thoughts and emotions.

Keywords

Lu Xun; Medicine; Color of language and image.

1. Introduction

Lu Xun has unique insights and in-depth research on art, and also has deep attainments in color science. He applies his keen grasp of colors in his writing, and consciously endows these colors with spiritual connotations. In his novels, black, white, red, yellow, cyan, green, blue, and purple, these eight colors are the most commonly used colors. Among them, black, white and red are the three most frequently used colors. In addition to the use of a single color, there are also mixtures of colors such as gray and white, blue and white, dark blue, red, red, white and white, and transitions from black to gray and white, and from bright red to jet black. Lu Xun condenses the abstract thoughts and emotions and profound meanings on the figurative language and image colors, thus arousing the resonance of the readers' senses. "Medicine" included in "Scream" has more than 4,000 words, of which only three colors of black, white and red appear in 30 places (as shown in Table 1). Taking Lu Xun's "Medicine" as the object, this paper analyzes the use of black, white and red and its image color meaning and metaphorical meaning from three aspects: character description, scene description and image construction.

Table 1. Black and white and red illustrations in "Medicine"

illustration \ color	black	white	red	mixed colours
	dark street	big white circle	dark red trim	dark blue sky
	black man	white gas	bright red buns	blue light
	black man	grey beard	red dripping	grey road
	black round thing	snow white silver	red bun	Red and white broken lantern
	black stuff	much whiter short hair	red eyes	red black flame
	A black line around the eye	half white hair	Vermillion lacquer basket	green and white flowers
	black eyes	pale face		blue and white flowers
	crow			
	black blouse			
	black belt			

2. Black, White, And Red in Characterization

2.1. Black: Carnage, Death and Evil

of black people in Lu Xun's writings , such as "black people" Yan Zhi Ao ; "two eyes glowing in the dark" Wei Lianshu ; "black and thin" Kong Yiji... In the article " Medicine " Kang Yiji The uncle is a "black man" and a "black man" . When describing his clothes, he also depicts his "black shirt" and "black belt" without hesitation. The whole body is completely black . Immediately afterwards , Lu Xun also used black to describe the appearance of Hua Laoshuan and his wife, who took human blood steamed buns from Uncle Kang for Xiaoshuan , that is, "both eye sockets are surrounded by a circle of black lines" , "black eye sockets" " . From the conversation between Graybeard and Laoshuan, it can be seen that the dark eyes of Hua Laoshuan and his wife are not due to lack of energy or depression, but they are still happy that Xiaoshuan can eat human blood steamed buns. Therefore , the appearance feature of black eye sockets is a deliberate arrangement by Lu Xun , in order to reflect the "blackness" of Hua Laoshuan and his wife with similar attributes to Uncle Kang .

Black represents slaughter and death . Black is the color after the blood has dried up and solidified . Uncle Kang is like a butcher's knife stained with the black blood of revolutionaries . It is a tool of the feudal class to suppress the masses, and it is extremely vicious .

Black also has the extended meaning of evil and darkness as opposed to justice . The word "black and white" is a metaphor for not distinguishing right from wrong , good or bad . " Black " represents the " non" and "bad" side of it . Uncle Kang, this "black man" is ignorant and short-sighted . Not only did he not sympathize with the death of the revolutionaries , but he also used the convenience of his position to make a profit , and disclosed the information to the Hua Laoshuan and his wife , so that the Hua Laoshuan and his wife were grateful to Dade for spending his life savings to buy human blood steamed buns . And Hua Laoshuan, who took the human blood steamed buns from him, and Hua Auntie Lu Xun, who cooked the human blood steamed buns for Xiaoshuan, also described them with dark eyes . Compared with the executioner Uncle Kang , in Lu Xun's writings , Hua Laoshuan and his wife showed more unconscious evil . They were not the direct murderers of Xia Yu , but their hands were also stained with Xia Yu's blood .

2.2. White: Decay, Numbness and Decay

"Gray beard" is a typical spectator image in Lu Xun's writings . He did not have a specific name . Lu Xun only selected the most prominent part of his appearance to outline the image of an old man . Combined with the description of his language and behavior in his text, it can be seen that he also has the characteristics of decadent superstition . White has the connotations of aging , lack of vitality , decay and numbness in " Medicine " . The grey beard was a portrayal of the older generation in the society at that time . He was insensitive . Xia Yu's death did not touch his heart at all . His focus was only that Xiaoshuan met the great luck and could eat human blood steamed buns. Disease ; he is backward and rotten , the concept of hierarchy is engraved in his bones , and he is accustomed to being humble and flattering to the superior . It's not just his beard that's white , his mind is as empty as white .

In addition to the gray beard, "Medicine" also uses white when describing the changes of the two female characters. After Aunt Hua spent huge sums of money to buy human-blooded steamed buns but still lost the small plug, she suffered a huge physical and mental blow , and her short hair became much whiter than last year . Aunt Hua was ashamed and pale for her son who died because of the revolution . Inside the tomb are sons of different causes of death, but outside the grave are all gray-haired mothers. The fate of the four people intersected because of the human blood steamed buns, and this "packaged" medicine did not heal Xiaoshuan , and after Xia Yu, who was "sucked blood" generously , was still not understood by the numb people ,

but instead became a The most tragic thing for the ignorant people to talk about after a meal is that even their own mother doesn't understand them , and instead they feel ashamed in front of people who eat their own blood steamed buns . The half- white hair and pale face are the biggest irony of the behavior of eating human blood steamed buns to cure diseases.

2.3. Red: Feudalism, Ignorance and Sickness

When red is used to describe the characteristics of people , it is easy to relate to what Lu Xun said in " Suiganlu Thirty-nine " : "Even if it is nameless and swollen and poisonous , if it is born in Chinese people , it will be red and swollen , as beautiful as peach blossoms . ; when it festers, it is as beautiful as cheese'" . This is a kind of morbid red . Lu Xun used beautiful words , bright colors and beautiful things to describe the swollen poison , but it made people feel more disgusted and hated , and more and more highlighted the profound national morbidity . In Lu Xun's writings , red is endowed with the meaning of national morbidity .

Ayi with red eyes is the representative of sick people . Lu Xun summed up Ayi with such morbid red eyes , implying the essence of Ayi's feudal accomplice . As Xia Yu described A Yi as "poor and pitiful" , the red-eyed A Yi was ignorant and didn't know that what he hit with his fist was not Xia Yu's body , but that he became a dignified person who was not oppressed by the hierarchy. possibility ; what he shattered was not Xia Yu's bones , but the hope of national development and progress . Such morbid citizens are more disgusting than the indifferent and numb spectators . They live in the gap between the old and the new . Their red eyes ca n't see into the distance . people .

3. Black and White in Environmental Description

In the description of the environment , Lu Xun attaches great importance to the vertical transition and horizontal contrast of colors . " Medicine " begins with a description of the environment that points out the time and place . The color of the sky first goes from dark blue (a color mixed with light black and blue) to dark , making the reader's heart hang with the old bolt that walks at night . But just when the environment was extremely tense and even tinged with terror , the road became clearer and brighter , and the sky became brighter . Insight into the light from the dark night always gives people a sense of life and hope . However, behind the human blood steamed buns that Wen Hua Laoshuan received, which seemed to symbolize hope, the revolutionary Xia Yu's death in vain and eating human blood steamed buns Can't save his son Xiao Shuan's despair .

In addition to the vertical transition of color over time, the horizontal contrast between light and dark in space is also designed . The blue-white light of the lamp appeared with the dark blue sky ; in the dark night, there was only a gray-white road .

of colors that Lu Xun makes the reader's eyes focus on the faint light in the dark background and the dialogue and behavior of Hua Laoshuan and his wife , which makes the contradictions and conflicts more prominent . The collision of black and white in the description of the environment symbolizes the contrast between darkness and light , and implies the suppression and promotion of the storyline . Colors presented in text cannot bring direct visual impact , so this strong contrast is transferred from vision to feeling , directly hitting the reader's heart , making the reader have a strong emotional resonance .

4. Black, White and Red in Typical Imagery

4.1. Human Blood Buns

Human blood steamed buns embody the theme of death and symbolize the meaning of death . In the text , the color of human blood steamed buns has experienced changes from "bright red steamed buns" , "red still dripping down little by little" to "red steamed buns" and then to "black

round things" , "black ones". The transformation of " things" and "scorched skin" . The use of red on objects usually gives people a bright and warm feeling , while black reflects depression , fatigue and decadence . The color change of human blood steamed bread intuitively reflects the process of steamed bread from fresh to shriveled and hardened . On the one hand, it implies that the life and spirit of the revolutionary Xia Yu has disappeared from freshness to silence ; on the other hand, it also implies that the revolutionary ideal, under the manipulation of the feudal accomplices and the ignorant masses, sprang up when Xiao Shuan opened the burnt skin. That streak of white air dissipated into the air together and died without a hitch .

4.2. Tomb Top Flower

Lu Xun satirized and criticized the inferiority of the nation in " Medicine " , but also implied the hope and dawn of the nation's development . At the end of the article, a few blue and white flowers bloomed on the top of Hua Xiaoshuan's grave ; red, red, white and white flowers bloomed on the top of Xia Yu's grave . It is also the contrast in the colors of the flowers on the top of the graves that makes the mothers of Hua and Xia have different perceptions . Facing the blue and white flowers, Aunt Hua only felt emptiness and insufficiency , but Grandma Xia Si vaguely glimpsed the truth from the red and white flowers . Xia Yu's death for the revolution failed to awaken the fourth grandmother of Xia. Instead, it was this superstitious grave flower that made her realize that Xia Yu was being tricked and misunderstood . On the one hand, it shows that Xia Yu 's sacrifice is not meaningless . On the other hand, it also shows that although the people are ignorant, they are not completely hopeless . Some people are awakening from ignorance . The contrast of the colors of the flowers on the top of the tomb highlights the sublimation of the theme of the novel .

4.3. Crow

been regarded as ominous in traditional Chinese culture for a long time due to their dark plumage and ugly appearance . However, this unpleasant black color in the eyes of the public has the meaning of rebelling against society and tradition in Lu Xun's eyes . Therefore, as a typical anti-traditional animal image, the crow is often used by Lu Xun to compare himself or give his revolutionary image. Symbolic meaning . In " Medicine " , the crow symbolizes the anti-feudal revolutionaries . As the spiritual sustenance of the two mothers , it did not follow the superstitious thoughts of Grandma Xia Si and landed on the top of the grave , but flew towards the distant sky . This is enough to reflect the crow's fighting spirit to break through the shackles of feudal superstition .

5. Summary

The appearance and use of the three colors black , white and red seem to be irregular , but in fact they have been carefully arranged by Lu Xun . If " Medicine " is divided according to the different scenes , it can be roughly divided into three scenes : T-shaped street , teahouse , and cemetery . There are three colors black , white and red in each scene . T-shaped streets have dark sky , gray roads and large white circles and dark red trims on prisoners' clothes ; teahouses have black people , white beards and red eyes ; cemeteries have red, red, white , and blue-white flowers and flowers appearing on the branches. black crow . It can be seen that the three colors of black , white and red do not exist separately . They often appear in the same scene and picture , bringing a bright visual impact to people , which has great artistic appeal and literary aesthetic value .

In addition , Lu Xun also gave a single color subjective emotion , in order to describe the typical . For example, the "black man" Uncle Kang represents the image of the feudal dignitaries , the "white beard" represents the image of a numb spectator , the typical "red-eyed" Ayi of the sick

citizens, the ignorant masses Hua Laoshuan and his wife and Grandma Xia Si, and the representative of rebellion Xia Yu and the crow in the image of the author .

Lu Xun also conveyed emotions by using the contrast and changes of colors, and visualized abstract emotions as bright colors , so as to expose the ignorance and numbness of the people under the feudal rule . At the same time, it sublimated the theme , praised the spirit of struggle to break through the shackles of feudalism , and called on the masses to awaken ideologically .

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