



# Film and television adaptation: Re-examination of the meaning and value of literary works

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**Abstract.** This article aims to re-examine the adaptation of literary works by film and television works, as well as its significance and value in literary inheritance and cultural dissemination. By analyzing the cross-border interaction between literary works and film and television works, the interpretation and reinterpretation of original works by film and television adaptations, and the inheritance and innovation of literary works, the impact of film and television adaptations on literary works is discussed. At the same time, taking the film and television adaptations of works such as "A Dream of Red Mansions", "Red Sorghum" and "The Three Body Problem" as examples, it discusses how film and television adaptations respect the author and protect the copyright of the original work, the influence of film and television works on public aesthetics and cultural identity, as well as the relationship between literature and The challenges of integrating film and television arts. Finally, prospects and suggestions are put forward for future research on film and television adaptations to promote the positive interaction and development of literary works and film and television art.

**Keywords:** film and television adaptation; literary works; meaning and value.

## 1 Introduction

With the prosperity of mass media, film and television adaptation has become an important channel for the dissemination of literary works. Through the cross-border interaction between literary works and film and television works, this paper discusses the interpretation and reinterpretation of the original works by film and television adaptation, and its role in the inheritance and innovation of literary works. The research adopts the methods of literature review, case analysis and comparative study, and based on the current research experience, puts forward some extended views in the field of film and television adaptation. Considering the current diversified background, this paper deeply analyzes a series of challenges in the process of film adaptation, especially the core issues such as copyright protection, cultural inheritance and innovation, popular aesthetics and cultural identity, combining with film adaptation works such as Dream of Red Mansions, Red Sorghum and Three-body. Through the careful discussion of these issues, this paper aims to provide valuable reference and

enlightenment for the future study of film adaptation and promote the benign interaction between literature and film.

## 2 Current Status of Film and Television Adaptation of Literary Works

Excellent literary works symbolize the profound cultural heritage of a country and nation. It is not only the fruit of wisdom of countless forefathers, but also carries the important mission of inheriting history and shaping national cultural identity and pride. It is also an important part of the development process of Chinese culture and has cross-era practical significance and value in the history of Chinese literature. In addition, excellent literary works can also inspire people's ethical consciousness and inspire them to stick to the heart of truth, kindness and beauty. These works have a deep enlightenment effect on the emotional and spiritual levels of individual life.

At the same time, with the continuous development of mass media, film and television adaptations have become one of the important ways of disseminating literary classics. Tracing the historical footsteps of Chinese film and television literary adaptations, 1905 ushered in the birth of the first film "Ding jun shan", which marked the official birth of Chinese cinema <sup>[1]</sup>. "Ding jun shan" is inspired by "The Romance of the Three Kingdoms". It was adapted from Peking Opera and presented to the general audience in the form of a movie. It not only created a precedent for Chinese film and television, but also strengthened the close connection between Chinese film and television and literary works. It also set off an upsurge in the adaptation of literary works in the film and television industry.

The historical development of China's film and television literature adaptation is based on time, which has experienced four stages: trying to explore (before 1949), consciously creating (1949-1979), actively innovating (1980s) and breaking through the silence (1990s) <sup>[1]</sup>. In the development process of China film and television industry at various stages, classic literature works have played an irreplaceable role, which not only provides rich materials for classic works for film and television adaptation, but also endows endless possibilities for the development of each stage.

In the current environment, as outstanding film and television adaptations continue to emerge, the controversy surrounding these film and television adaptations has gradually intensified. The focus of the controversy is mainly on the selection of topics for film and television adaptations and the differences between the adaptations and the original works. Taking the selection of topics as an example, when film and television creators choose themes, the first consideration is whether the content and theme of the original works are suitable for transformation into film and television works. After confirming the adaptability of the subject matter, they will also think about how to fit the public's preferences and pursue the popularity of watching movies. Although film and television technology continues to develop, not all types of themes are suitable for adaptation into film and television works.

### 3 The Significance and Value of Film and Television Adaptations

With the continuous evolution of film and television adaptation, film and television producers use the media as the carrier and combine big data analysis to build accurate and diversified communication channels, which makes more and more film and television adaptation works flood into the public's field of vision. At present, film and television adaptation not only inherits the essence of the original literature, but also injects new vitality into it through innovative forms to show today's practical significance and value of the times. Taking *The Journey to the West* as an example, there are many kinds of film and television adaptations, whether it's the faithful adaptation directed by Yang Jie in 1987, the screening and reappearance adaptation represented by "The Monkey King in Heaven" or the deductive and reappearance adaptation represented by the film "A Chinese Odyssey", which are widely praised by the audience, deeply interpreting the humanistic core of "people should be brave in facing fate" and perfectly presenting the unique features of the integration of classic literary works and modern film and television technology<sup>[2]</sup>.

For another example, taking the TV series "The Road to Life" as an example, influenced by the false "values" in the Internet age, young people are no longer keen on such realistic themes<sup>[3]</sup>. However, through the superb adaptation skills of the screenwriter, the play has sprung up in the film and television market. Specifically, the play retains the essence of the original work, whether it is the portrayal of the typical character Gao Jialin or the excavation of the boundary of life and human nature<sup>[4]</sup>; At the same time, the film and television adaptors showed outstanding innovative spirit, which not only ingeniously increased the role of Gao Shuangxing, but also deeply expanded Gao Jialin's subsequent life development process, and flexibly integrated the hot issues in today's society into the film and television creation, making the whole film and television work more extensive and deep.

Comparing different film and television adaptations, the past film and television adaptations often only focused on one aspect of the original work. Today's film and television adaptations are more comprehensive. They can also be combined with the development of the times, paying more attention to the integration of modernity, humanity, education and innovation.

This transformation process has positive significance and is also an important aspect of the significance and value of film and television adaptations. Furthermore, as more and more literary works are presented to the audience through film and television adaptations, this adaptation method has become an effective way for literary works to expand their influence. Some classic film and television works have become treasures in the field of film and television with their unique artistic value and influence. It not only achieves the harmonious unity of film and television works and literary works, but also promotes the mutual achievement of the two in modern society and radiates new vitality in different fields.

## 4 The Impact and Challenges of Film and Television Adaptations

As the cultural industry keeps pace with the development of the times, the influence of literary works adapted from film and television has gradually expanded, becoming an indispensable and important part of the public's spiritual and cultural life. Film adaptation not only makes the artistic charm of literary works spread more widely, but also profoundly reveals the connotation of history and culture and vividly reflects social phenomena<sup>[5]</sup>. In addition, film adaptation also contains great commercial value, which can attract many followers and promote the development of related cultural industries. More importantly, film adaptation has greatly enriched the audience's visual experience and has become one of the indispensable cultural communication channels in today's era<sup>[6]</sup>. However, at the same time, literary works adapted from film and television also face some challenges. Specifically, film and television adaptations respect the copyright of literary works, popular aesthetics and cultural identity, and the integration of literary works and film and television art. These challenges are areas that need to be considered in depth and effective solutions must be sought. Film and television creators must fully respect and deeply understand the original literary works, and closely integrate them with the mainstream values of today's society. Only in this way can we create film and television works that conform to social values, cater to public aesthetics, and are faithful to the core essence of the original works.

Regarding film and television adaptations, the necessity of copyright of the original work is emphasized. In recent years, due to the copyright openness and non-exclusiveness of classical IP, its development cost is low, so it is often used as an object of industrialization<sup>[7]</sup>. Taking the classic literary work "A Dream of Red Mansions" as an example, it has extended the "Red Mansions Culture" The industrial chain, including diversified products such as the Dream of Red Mansions art stage drama, has brought visual feast and ideological enlightenment to the audience. At the same time, in order to maximize the commercial interests of film and television works, some unscrupulous developers aimed at the non-copyright exclusivity of "Dream of Red Mansions" and hired IP teams to develop it in a short period of time, resulting in the final film and television works losing the essence of the original work. This kind of This approach not only lacks the most basic copyright respect for the original work, but also loses the inheritance of the cultural connotation and artistic value of the original work. In response to this problem, the country should formulate strict laws and regulations to increase the protection of the copyright of original works, especially non-copyright exclusive original works. At the same time, it is also necessary to prevent pirated film and television adaptations from entering the market. Those in the film and television industry must keep pace with the times, be brave in innovation, and strive to achieve the unification of film and television art and commercial interests while inheriting the essence of classic literature, consciously avoid malicious competition in the industry and reduce homogeneity, and work together to Promote the healthy development of the film and television industry.

About the impact of film and television adaptations on public aesthetics and cultural identity. Taking "Red Sorghum" as an example, there are obvious differences in

adaptation aesthetics and cultural identity between the film version and the TV series version. This difference is not only due to the influence of objective aspects such as the historical background and film and television technology, but more importantly, the film and television adapters' understanding of the film and television. Particular attention is paid to aspects of public aesthetics and cultural identity. Specifically, both of them use "red" elements as the main thread throughout. The difference is that the film and television adaptation gives new pursuits and practical significance in terms of popular aesthetics and cultural identity. The movie "Red Sorghum" uses elements such as red sorghum, red sun, and red sedan chair to show the truest state of human beings and their desire and pursuit of life. It further broadens the depth of the movie, expands the public's aesthetic vision, and allows the public to experience to the beautiful state of life. The TV series "Red Sorghum", with the same "red" elements mentioned above, has now been given new meaning and value of the times. Mainly reflected in the adaptation process, it pursues to satisfy the public's sensory pleasure and entertainment needs, and highlights the image of a smart, capable and thoughtful woman in the workplace<sup>[8]</sup>. It can be seen that film and television adaptation is not only a way of film and television expression, but also a vivid reflection of the changes in public aesthetic concepts and cultural identity. This reflection vividly demonstrates the profound impact that film and television adaptations have on public aesthetics and cultural identity.

On the challenges of the integration of literary works and film and television arts. Take the TV series "The Three Body Problem" as an example. Despite the rapid development of science and technology, it still faces technical problems in shooting and visual presentation, and at the same time, it tests the adaptation skills of the screenwriter<sup>[9]</sup>. Adapters not only need to deeply understand the essence of the original works, but also need to think about how to effectively transform the original language into film and television language, that is, to transform it into audio-visual art acceptable to the public through film and television art techniques, so as to understand the sci-fi world presented in the play and the central idea to be conveyed. In addition, it also tests whether the adapters have unique insight and innovative ability to science fiction literature and science fiction movies. Therefore, in the process of film and television adaptation, the challenge of the integration of literature and film and television art not only requires the adapters to keep pace with the times, develop and innovate, but also have rich literary cultivation and film and television literacy, so as to realize the perfect integration of the two in cross-border.

## 5 Conclusion

To sum up, the significance and value of film and television works to the adaptation of literary works are self-evident. Film and television adaptation has injected new vitality into literary works, expanded their dissemination scope and made classic works be passed down forever. At the same time, film and television works also have strong appeal and communication power, which can reach a wider audience and pro-

mote the organic integration and common development of literature and film and television art.

However, film and television adaptation also faces many challenges, including protecting the integrity of the original works and guiding the audience to treat film and television works correctly. In order to solve these challenges, it is necessary to strengthen the standardization and guidance of film and television adaptation, guarantee the copyright and creation of original works, and promote the benign interaction between literature and film and television art.

With the development of the times, the future film adaptation will continue to deepen research and explore more innovative forms of expression and artistic techniques. It is expected that film and television adaptation will bring more high-quality and in-depth works to the audience, contribute more to the inheritance and development of literary works, and promote the vigorous development of literature and film and television art in the new era.

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