

Principles and Methods of Ideological Education Work

Interpretation on the Movie *I am not "Pan Jinlian"*

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Abstract—The film *I am not "Pan Jinlian"* reflects a social issue of the masses' petition. In the film, the government conducts ideological work for the party many times to attempt to persuade her into stopping suing. But all their efforts fail. This paper analyzes the causes of failure and takes a lesson from it. It makes conclusions that when the governments develop ideological education work for the masses, they should adhere to the principles of subjectivity and democracy, use model demonstration, psychological counseling, infection education and other correct methods.

Keywords—*I am not "Pan Jinlian"*; Li Xuelian; Suit; Principles; Methods

I. INTRODUCTION

The film *I am not "Pan Jinlian"* directed by the famous director Feng Xiaogang was released in the mainland of China on November 18, 2016. This film is from Liu Zhenyun's novel *I am not "Pan Jinlian"* (Liu is a famous Chinese contemporary writer). The film tells that a Chinese rural woman Li Xuelian filed suits in the courts because of a divorce case. Li Xuelian's ex-husband Qin Yunhe said that Li Xuelian was a bitch, was "Pan Jinlian". In order to prove that she is not "Pan Jinlian", Li Xuelian comes to Beijing to sue for more than ten years. Because of her suing, provincial government dismissed the president of the county court (Xun Zhengyi), the county magistrate (Shi Weimin), the mayor (Cai Hubang) from their own post. The new president of the county court Wang Gongdao who was a judge dealing with the divorce case, new county magistrate Zheng Zhong and the mayor Ma Wenbin are afraid to be dismissed like their predecessors, they develop the ideological work for Li Xuelian to persuade her into giving up suing. But they all failed because of their improper methods. That is Li Xuelian's story. The film uses her story to reflect social issues. There is no doubt that this is a piece of good art work because the work is like a mirror that reflects the social issues. The thesis makes the correct interpretation of the film from the perspective of ideological education and summarizes the experience, which has important practical significance for guiding ideological education work.

II. PRINCIPLES AND METHODS

Developing ideological education work should adhere to the principles, use correct methods. Then the work can achieve the wanted effects. "Ideological education principles are basic behavior principles that educators should follow in ideological education activity. They reflect objective rules of ideological education and have important meanings to the successful development of ideological education^[1]." Only after educators grasp basic educational principles, they can correctly use specific methods to help educatee change their original wrong ideas and thoughts. If the methods are proper, it can be successful; if the methods are not appropriate, ideological education work will fail, even may make the condition become worse. Mao Zedong once said that "we not only should put forward tasks, but also give the methods to solve issues. Our mission is to cross the river, but we can't make it without the bridges and boats. If we don't solve the issue of bridges and boats, crossing the river is just a sentence in the paper; if we don't solve the issue of the methods, and tasks are just the empty word^[2]." If we want to persuade the masses, firstly we must know the masses' ideological condition. Then we need to obey the general rules of ideological education, use correct methods to persuade the masses. By this way, we can achieve what we are expected to get. So, methods are the key to solve the problems.

III. THE CAUSES FOR FAILING TO PERSUADE LI XUELIAN

A. Cheating the Masses

Educator should pay attention to their words and deeds at any time. They mustn't break a promise made to others. No one can command others who cannot command himself. Once educated people lose their trust, no matter what you say, they don't believe. At the beginning of this film, Li Xianglian took sesame oil and bacon to claim kinship for the judge Wang Gongdao. The judge accepted her president. So, Li Xuelian didn't believe he is an impartial judge. She always thought that her case was misjudged. Therefore, she found the president of the court (Xun Zhengyi) for charging the judge (Wang Gongdao). She said to the president of the county court, "Wang Gongdao takes brides, he is not fair, and he always protects the other party's benefits. He accepts

my sesame oil and bacon.” However, at this moment, the president of the county court just finished drinking. Li Xuelian was more convinced of her own conjecture. She said, “you are drunk every day, how can you judge the cases correctly?” Afterwards, she found the county magistrate (Shi Weimin), but the county magistrate cheated her. He said, “I am not the county magistrate, I am a secretary of the county magistrate.” After Li Xuelian knew the truth, she has to sue in the city. Finally, she submitted suit in Beijing. Because of her previous experience, she has lost confidence to all officers. Therefore, no matter who makes ideological education work for her, it becomes hard for her to accept that.

B. Don't Believe in the Masses

Li Xuelian sued in the courts for more than ten years, but she still can't win the case. So, she decided to give up suing. This is a perfect time to make the ideological education work for Li Xuelian. If we can praise her and encourage her to start a new life, everything will be on the track. But, no one did that since nobody believed her. The distrust further intensifies the conflict. Wang Gongdao was afraid that Li Xuelian continued to sue. He came to the house of Li Xuelian and told her not to sue again. Li Xuelian told him, “This year, I don't make petition, my heart is dead this year” . However, Wang Gongdao didn't believe her. He found the county magistrate Zheng. They let her sign the guarantee agreement. Li Xuelian made her promise to the magistrate, but she refused to write the letter of guarantee. She said, “I have given up suing, but you all force me. If you force me again like that, I tell you, I change my mind.” So, the mayor Ma made the ideological work personally. The mayor asked, “Xulian, you have sued for many years, why do you give up suing this year? What make you change your mind?” Li Xuelian answered that she heard the words of a head of cattle. The cattle asked her to stop suing. Hearing her words, all people are hard to believe. The magistrate Zheng and Wang Gongdao thought that she used cattle to fool them, and she said some bad words about them. They never believed her. They assigned a police officer to keep watch on her to avoid her suit in Beijing. But this seemingly smart action is so foolish in fact. Such a behavior just forced Li Xuelian to come to Beijing.

C. Don't Respect the Masses

Ideological education work needs the educators to contribute much patience to persuade the other party. In this process, educators must respect the rights of the other party, understand their feelings, tried to persuade them sentimentally and rationally. However, real condition is just on the contrary. The government of Guangmin County assigned police officers to control Li Xuelian. At the first, the mayor Cai ordered his subordinates to take Li Xuelian but he didn't say the specific method. The public security organization thought that they should arrest Li Xuelian. So Li Xuelian was arrested without experiencing any legal procedures. In the detention center, the police officers told her, “you should have the cardinal principles in mind and take the overall situation into account”. Li Xuelian didn't accept the words in mind. Afterwards, in order to prevent Li Xuelian come to Beijing to sue, the government arranged four police officers to monitor her for 24 hours, which seriously affect

Li Xuelian's normal life. What's more, Jia Congming from the county court colluded with Zhao Datou. He instigated Zhao Datou to date Li Xuelian, cheated Li Xuelian to go back for a marriage and give up suing. Li Xuelian got the truth, and she felt that her dignity was insulted. She said, “I am not “Pan Jinlian” in the past, but now Zhao Datou had sex with me, I become “Pan Jinlian”. If the thing is not clarified, I can't live”. Owing to the mistakes of some governmental officers, Li Xuelian became more and more furious, so finally she came to Beijing to sue again.

D. Don't Care for the Masses

Ideological education work needs a long term to complete, needs educators' dedication and kindness. When educators make ideological education work for the masses, firstly they should care for the masses' living demands, and establish emotional relationships with the masses. This point is very important. If you attempt to get what you want only by temporary working or you just make the ideological work once, you can't achieve the success, instead, the masses will hate you. In the diary life, no one cared Li Xuelian's life, and no one cared whether she met difficulties after the divorce, whether she was happy. But when the National People's Congress and People's Political Consultative Conference are coming, the government came to her house, and they started to make ideological education work to Li Xuelian and persuaded her not to sue. Mayor Ma told her, “We came here to help you solve your problems.” Li Xuelian replied, “I don't believe you. Don't cheat me! National People's Congress will be opened soon, so you all come. You just use a new trick to cheat me, then you all go away, abandon me to the god, my case still can't be solved.” Just as the sentence Rome wasn't built in a day, you can't melt her anger through one time of negotiation. Only you care for the masses in the diary life, let the masses believe in you, help them solve their ideological confusion, it can be possible to solve all problems.

IV. WHAT WE SHOULD LEARN FROM THE CASE OF LI XUELIAN

A. Adhere to Correct Work Principles

1) The Principle of Subjectivity

The principle of subjectivity refers to that “when educators carry out ideological education activity, they should fully respect the subjective position of the other party, motivate self-education to achieve the ideological goals”^[3]. Adhering to the principle of subjectivity, firstly educators should respect the subjective position of the masses, and make ideological work with the attitude of serving people. The masses are the creators of history. Xi Jinping pointed out, “We must listen to people's voice, share the same thoughts with them, work together with them”^[4]. Ideological education work is the political advantage of the Communist Party. Its purpose is to help people have correct values to the world, to life, guide the masses to take socialism core values into practice. Let the masses work together to establish a harmonious society, fight for achieving Chinese dream. In order to achieve the goals, educators must believe in the masses, respect the masses, care the masses to establish Harmonious relationship between the party and the masses,

the relationship between cadres and the masses. Then the masses can believe in the Communist Party and follow their orders. So, when governments make ideological work for the masses, they must face up to the questions raised by the masses, and believe that the masses can educate themselves. They can't hate the masses, avoid the problems, treat the masses as a "scourge", and regard the masses as very unreasonable "trouble people." In this film, the central head pointed that in the congress, "our governments, our officers don't care for the masses' security and life. You don't care, he doesn't care either, you all prevaricate. You make troubles for others, others make troubles for you. So, little sesame turns into watermelon, an ant turns into an elephant." This sounds the alarm for those party members and cadres who cut themselves off from the masses. It tells all the educators not to cut yourselves off from the masses. Mayor Ma criticized the county magistrate Zheng, "A rural woman has sued for more than ten years, but she gives up this year. No matter it is true or false, you should guide toward the positive aspects. But, on the contrary, you force her to write the guarantee statement. The thing becomes worse". From their experience, educators should understand that as an educator, he/she must adhere to the principle of subjectivity, respect the reasonable demands of the masses, and positively guide the masses to achieve self-educating.

2) *The Principle of Democracy*

Zhang Yaocan holds the opinions that educators need to solve the inequality between the educated people and educators, constantly enhance the democracy of education, avoid the mandatory education, explore the methods how to respect people, understand people, care people^[5]. In this film, the mayor Ma has realized work methods' issue. He said, "your work methods are not correct. You should change your attitudes to treat people...what is the correct attitudes you should have? Allow me to use a meal to explain. Whether we should visit people, or let the people visit us?" It means that in the process of developing ideological education, educators should carry forward the spirit of democracy, adhere to democratic style and democratic methods, let people have their own voice, listen to them, you mustn't force people. As an educator, you must treat people sincerely, calmly guide the masses, so that the masses can voluntarily open their hearts, change their minds. Finally you achieve the goal that makes the masses know what is right, what is wrong, help the masses to solve their problems, make the two sides have a good mood. Those acts in respect of deceiving the masses, forcing the masses to write a guarantee statement, and even the confining the masses must be resolutely abandoned.

B. *Using Correct Work Methods*

1) *Example Demonstration*

Educators must be good samples. There is an old saying in China, "if you can't make it, don't force others to achieve it". In the case of Li Xuelian, the government regarded Li Xuelian's behavior as unreasonable playing. They hoped she can change her mind. But, if they can be the first to make self mistakes, just become the leader, the sample, then guide Li Xuelian to re-treat the suing experience, she may change her mind. Wang Gongdao has mistakes since he accepts her presents. The county magistrate has mistakes since he cheats

her. The police officer also has mistakes since they arrest Li Xuelian illegally. But they never show their apology to Li Xuelian. They just think that Li Xuelian is unreasonable. The county magistrate Zheng asked, "Why you dare not to write the guarantee statement?" Li Xuelian argued, "I dare to write. But I can't write. Since it means that I have mistakes. But why? I just try to clarify myself, why I can't sue?" From her words, we can find that she has a sense of what is right or what is wrong, and she is not a unreasonable person. If the government can give more patience to guide her, she can change her mind. So, the government must learn to make self-reflections, learn to recognize self mistakes. Use self behaviors to influence Li Xuelian's thoughts and acts.

2) *Psychological Counseling Method*

The definition of psychological counseling method: on the basis of good relationships between educators and the educated people, educators focus on psychological problems to communicate with educated people, guide educated people to solve their psychological problems^[6]. In the process, they understand each other. The way used by educators is called psychological counseling method. Li Xuelian has sued for many years. These years of experiences have made her have mental issues. Their complaints can't be expressed. No one listens to her voice. Her self-esteem frustrated. She had a sense of being deprived and oppressed. Next, angry emotions will naturally spread. Under this situation, she really needs psychological counseling to help her solve mental barriers. As a matter of fact, the mayor Ma has realized this issue, he told the county magistrate Zheng, "she is not an usual woman, we can't treat her as other women, if we do like this, there must be problems". He tried to solve Li Xuelian's mental problems through communication, but he didn't find her mental crux. Why Li Xuelian submitted a suit? Because her husband called her "Pan Jinlian", which damaged her reputation. In addition, due to Qin Yuhe's cheating, she lost her unborn baby. So, she was very sad and angry. However, for many years, the government just focused on her divorce. They never know her real reason for suing. So, they ignore the importance of mental counseling for her.

3) *Infection Method*

Infection refers to use emotions, feelings to move people, to solve resentment. For Li Xuelian's divorce case, the court gave correct judging. She refused to accept, but she didn't institute an appeal. Instead she just uses the petition to solve. From this aspect, Li Xuelian also has mistakes. On the other hand, her feelings were deceived, reputation was slandered, and personal freedom was limited and other unfortunate experiences. To a certain extent, people should be sympathetic to her. When someone is in the bad situation, she/he needs the sympathy of others. If others can console the person and show sympathetic, the people will feel better, the mental issues will be solved. Zhao Datou told Li Xuelian, "Please stop suing. Suit means that you have to leave your relatives, and you have to be close to those you hate. If you can change your mind, we go back to get married. The small restaurant has been empty for many years. We can operate it again. We will live a happy life." His words moved her. She almost gave her suing. But, unfortunately, Zhao Datou just

uses these words to cheat her. If these governmental officers can think from the perspective of Li Xuelian, say something warm to care for her, instead, they criticized her all the time. They can persuade her into changing mind. Using emotions to move people requires the educators to think about others, think what the educated one think. The government should use their right to do good things for people, seek benefits for people, care people.

V. CONCLUSION

The film *I am not "Pan Jinlian"* makes audiences think a lot. The writer has the following inspirations from it: It is important to have correct attitudes to treat the masses, have correct principles and methods to solve ideological issues of the masses. Only the educators believe in the masses, respect the masses, care the masses' thoughts, adhere to the principles of subjectivity and democracy, flexibly use samples demonstration, psychological counseling, infection method and other methods to develop ideological education, they can make it.

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