

Interpretation of Tolkien Creation Idea from "The Hobbit"

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Abstract—"The Hobbit" of Britain literary giant Tolkien was the hearth book wrote to children. In the book, the author used his exquisite creative concept to win countless supporters. The story was later adapted, directed and filmed as a fantasy blockbuster movie by Hollywood director Peter Jackson into a trilogy. Fantastic visual feast and story line won the excitement and crazy love from his fans. The thesis mainly analyzes the story line and characterization of "The Hobbit", the fantasy literature, and illustrates the creative ideas of Tolkien and makes the readers learn some of the artistic value of "The Hobbit".

Keywords—"The Hobbit"; Tolkien; Creative ideas; Fantasy

I. INTRODUCTION

Erebor – the Lonely Mountain was occupied by the Dragon Dread Smaug, the greatest disaster of the time. When ravens of the previous dynasties fly back to the Lonely Mountain, as predicted, the governance of the beast came to an end. Gandalf the Gray and Bilbo Baggins joined in the journey of retaking lost ground of dwarfs – the Lonely Mountain, the treasure trove, and thus began the exploration in the Middle Earth. Kind and pure hobbits, elegant and noble elves, orcs with fierce appearance..... All races were involved in the fantastic audio and visual drama in the remote Middle Earth. There are Storylines that with ups and downs and dwarfs who go directly to their faith, all these helped readers to understand this precious cultural treasure written by the author Tolkien.

II. HUMANIZED THEME OF TREASURING INNER BEAUTY AND KINDNESS

In his childhood, the author Tolkien was once an unknown student, but he began to reveal his strong language talent when he was a student in Oxford University. He was good at classics, and was able to borrow Myths of North Europe and Germanic legends into "The Hobbit". All species and languages in the story were molded from his broad and profound cultural accumulation, and each species has its own language. Tolkien created the myth system of the Middle Earth with his deep cultural accomplishments. "The Hobbit" reveals "an already existed world which we stepped in accidentally"^① for the reader. Compared with the film, the original work "The Hobbit" tends to introduce an adventure tour full of innocence and

imagination, inserted with many classical poeties and folk songs and ballads, warm and interesting.

In the description of the author Tolkien, simple and honest hobbit is an optimistic and free nation in nature. They love simple things and eating, talkative and sociable, live in the Bag End built by woods and surrounded by flowers and grasses, and have a very comfortable idyllic life in the vast grassland and forest. In the new edition of "The Hobbit" with drawings, the drawings were drawn by Tolkien, who was also an illustrator besides writer and linguist. There is one such scene in the book: in the Durin's day when the sun and moon rise at the same time in the sky, there is snow covered peak on the blue and black mountain interspersed with green grassland and forest, the winding road adds mystery to the picture. From the beautiful nature creation, it is easy to see Tolkien's love and praise to comfortable and elegant idyllic life.

There were records of elves and dwarfs in the Myth of North Europe. In the description of Tolkien, elves tend to have more human nature rather than divinity. This noble race has wisdom and good appearance, loves simple things and exquisite handicrafts and plays harp graciously. The peaceful and idyllic hometown created by their wisdom and hands has become the refuge for many fellowships of the Ring. Tauriel and Kellett's love in the film of "The Hobbit" was added in the adaptation, which inject vigor into the film and also raise female right of speech in the film. In this part, Tauriel, the woodland elf tells Kellett that elf loves star light, which is precious and pure like memory. This left people into deep thinking. The pursuit to beauty and kindness was the same with hobbits love no matter in the original work or added in the film. The purest and most beautiful peaceful life described by the author was the true happiness. In comparison, the ugly greed and vicious power represented by cruel orcish, greedy spider and dirty troll was the sneer at the greedy and fool people in reality, who lose in the gap with kindness and beauty.

In "The Hobbit", there is important bond between nature and human. Tolkien has conveyed strong environmental protection information that nature and human are friends, rather than to over dig and conquer nature. Radagast the Brown, who protected the vast forest in the east against vicious power's invade and harassment, was a gentle man loves the accompanying of animals. This kind role in the work was endowed with the deep meaning of protecting natural environment. The exploitation of the Lonely Mountain without

^① [US] Wayne G. Hammond, Christina Scull. Huang Liyuan (translator). Art in "The Hobbit". [M]. Shanghai People's Publishing House, 2014, P14.

restraint, the appearing of Arkenstone and the destroying of the greedy dread dragon has aroused readers rethinking on the harmonious development that needed between human and nature.

We couldn't help thinking deeply with the breathtaking story that sharing is stronger than monopolization. Self-aggrandizement of human desires is the end of the self. Only harmonious coexistence between human and nature and cherishing inner beauty and kindness are the root of human and nature relationship.

III. PUREST UNIVERSAL VALUE

Bilbo Baggins was a hobbit who loves easy life and content with his lot. Bilbo was chosen and joined the Thorin Oakenshield thirteen people team for the adventure journey after the coming of Gandalf the Grey. Although this was against to Bilbo's intention, the author still described his courage to challenge and adventure into universalism to move the reader. The world was neither in the book nor map, but outside them. Gandalf the Grey encouraged this small hobbit, whom once loved exploring the world outside Shaire boundary, that you would carry with you one or two legends when you came back, and home is behind you and world is in the front. Therefore, Bilbo joined the unexpected journey because of the opportunity and the wizard's will, and destiny made him part of the legend.

In addition, suspense of win or fail depends on the faith holds by each race. Every people were composing the soul-stirring faith. Strong sense of justice and value of inner heart decide good and evil of human nature, and it made the Thorin Oakenshield fearless of loss. Driven by profits and right, all races wanted ardently the treasure trove Lonely Mountain that the retaking of hometown was more important than any other things. With unified will and faith can the Thorin Oakenshield team went to the final goal.

In order to make it more real and authentic, everyone has his weaknesses and characteristics in character portraying. Suspicion and obsessiveness of Sohlin were more unpleasant foiled by Bilbo. After escaped from the surrounding by Goblin and facing Sohlin's questioning, Bilbo told the team that he always missed Bag End, his book, armchair and garden; he belonged to there because it is home. However, this team has no home since it was rapped, and he was going to help dwarfs to take it back. Bilbo rescued Sohlin, leader of dwarfs by his action, Sohlin's recognition on the sincere friendship between them before his death was the part that moved audience. There were also some other similar plots, such as Gandalf's timely help when dwarfs were in critical moment. On the one hand, it implied the great and difficult crisis for the Lonely Mountain journey; on the other hand, it also announces the bright positive force and the purest universal value.

Dragon slaying has a long history in western culture. Smaug, the greatest disaster of the times, has a flaming mouth, shaver-like teeth, and hook-like claws. He loved precious metals very much that he has occupied the Lonely Mountain and the treasures. When ravens fly back to the mountain, as said in prophecy, it was the time to retake the hometown. Thorin Oakenshield was about to arrive the Lonely Mountain

to fight the last battle with the Dread Dragon Smaug. Smaug attacked Hekou town, and was shot to death by Bard with black arrow. Sohlin, the leader of dwarfs, occupied a mountainous pile of treasure after taking back the Lonely Mountain, and all races were intended to carve up the treasure of the Lonely Mountain. However, desire confuses one's mind, Sohlin changed his temperament since received the treasure of the Lonely Mountain, and became suspicious because of his obsession to gold. The interweaving of desire and faith is the artistic modeling of the real world and social civilization. On themes of justice, respect, money and value, "The Hobbit" is not doubt the ground breaking work among numerous old type literatures.

IV. HEROISM OF ORDINARY NOBODY

When facing the arrival of dark forces, disaster and difficulties, what should one do? Tolkien has deliberately strengthen the theme of antagonism, described the life-and-death struggle between a strong sense of adventure and heroism and hope. "The Hobbit" employed fairy tale narrative, and also reflected the new spirit of the time — emphasizing heroic color. From moral perspective, under the narrow values breed within the capitalism society that affected by the social trend, the faith of the Middle Earth and the heroism of ordinary nobody that described by Tolkien have comforted people's spiritual world. This value system is Tolkien's response towards the society he was in.

The hero hobbit Bilbo Baggins became the fourteenth member of the team exploring the Lonely Mountain by Gandalf's elaborate plan. In appearance, Bilbo is short and ordinary. He was a little coward in character for his loving easy and comfortable life. Readers couldn't help thinking that how does this nobody become the hero of the whole fiction, and what important and non-neglected position he is in. In other people's eyes, Bilbo didn't know how to use weapons and with no fighting experiences. He was nobody who only knows some conkers. However Gandalf gave him confirmation in more than one aspect: Bilbo's abilities far surpassed his external expression. What he can do to Thorin Oakenshield was more than anyone else in the team, even more than he knew about himself. On the other hand, he was light on his feet that no one would find when he passed, which was an obvious advantage. After arrive the Lonely Mountain, Bilbo found a secret gate for Sohlin with his wisdom, and went there lonely to fight with Smaug several times. Heroism hidden inside was inspired, and Bilbo showed his special wit and courage. When Smaug was shot death by Bard in Lake Town, Sohlin intended to possess all the treasure of the Lonely Mountain. At this time, righteous and kind Bilbo's behavior was really admirable that he didn't hesitate to give up his own profit to solve the inner differences of Sohlin's team. Finally, Sohlin led the team by himself to fight with the five armies. At this moment, Bilbo became an impressive figure. Compared with Sohlin who lose his mind by material wealth, Bilbo's righteous, faith and heroism was the key in the formation of the plot. As in the real society, there is no unilateral value standard on judging one person, and you may find a different self and other person when changed the perspective.

In fact, there was more than one hero Bilbo in “The Hobbit”. Gandalf who was courageous to pursue his faith led dwarfs to fight in the Lonely Mountain, fellow men who against Orcishs with Solhin, and courageous Bard, etc. were all extraordinary heroes. Although Solhin once lost himself in his desires, he still received praise for his bravery when you read the whole book. Compared with other people, Solhin hated Orcishs more. After the Dread Dragon taken the Lonely Mountain, Solhin, the king of Durin Family tried to retake the ancient dwarf kingdom Moria, which was occupied by Orcishs one step ahead. The vilest head Azog of the race killed King Solhin in the fight. Then Thorn, Solhin’s father, was nowhere to be found because sadness drove him crazy. Without leader, dwarfs were at a loss, despair, fear and death came one after another. At this time, Solhin fought against the powerful enemy Orcishs by himself, and cut one of Azog’s arms, and beat the enemy. His resolution and courage were fully performed, and his ability of challenging the evil force and triumph over adversity was attributed to his individualistic heroism. Therefore, his was determined to follow his team member.

“The Hobbit” gave birth to a multitude of heroes. It was not hard to see from their experiences that the lives of hero were not smooth. It seems that their characteristics would be represented after go through big obstacles and choices. And most of them would only be successful after inner cultivation. When the Dread Dragon attacked the Lake Town, Bard sacrificed his personal interests to protect family members and human and maintain justice, and thus he received people’s respect and support and became the leader. Bilbo, who once was content with things as they are, chose adventure with the encouragement of Gandalf. The contrast made the latter part of the fiction appreciable. The difference between hero and ordinary people depends on the unique character and firm faith, being courageous when facing difficulties and was able to make self-salvation and also save others.

When the Lonely Mountain journey came to an end, Bilbo returned to hometown again. At this time, he has deep understanding toward life. The common behavior like kindness and love can resolve darkness. There should be more adventure in life, and one should be optimistic and hopeful. Therefore, Tolkien left reader with childlike innocent imagination and interests, as well as valuable cultural treasure.

V. CONCLUSION

Deep cultural attainment, fantastic and interesting plot, rich artistic imagination, and morality and value beyond common customs made Tolkien’s bedtime story into a masterpiece of classical literary fairy tales, and credited Tolkien with the praise of “Father of Modern Fantasy Literature”. Beauty, sincerity, friendship and honor that conveyed by “The Hobbit” could make readers have the feeling that Tolkien created an epoch-making world. After all, only the true, the good and the beautiful can win the respect from the reader.

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