

A Comparative Study of the Narrative Strategies in One Hundred Years of Solitude and Life and Death are Wearing Me Out

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Abstract: This paper makes a comparative analysis of the similarities and differences between Garsia Marcos Paulo Souza Ribeiro's the One Hundred Years of Solitude and Mo Yan's the Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out in terms of narrative time, narrative language and symbolic techniques. By discussing the features of the two works in the following aspects: Paragraph Division and chapter arrangement, narrative time handling, language style interwoven by magic and reality, free indirect speech and language game, narrative rhythm and language tension, color symbol and image construction, fusion of myth and legend with historical allusion, and construction of symbol system, it reveals their unique artistic charm and deep cultural implication. Although both works belong to the magic realism, they display distinct personalities and differences in the use of specific narrative strategies and symbolism.

1. Introduction

As an important genre of 20th century literature, magic realism has attracted countless readers and researchers with its unique narrative style and profound symbolic significance. Garsia Marcos Paulo Souza Ribeiro's One Hundred Years of Solitude and Mo Yan's Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out, as representative works of this genre, not only show the typical characteristics of magic realism, also in the narrative strategy and the use of symbolism have their own merits. The purpose of this paper is to explore their unique position and contribution in the magic realism, and how they use different narrative strategies and symbolic techniques, reveal their profound cultural connotation and human nature thinking.

2. Comparative analysis of narrative perspective

2.1. The use of omniscient and pluralistic perspectives

In the One Hundred Years of Solitude, Garsia Marcos Paulo Souza Ribeiro uses an omniscient perspective that allows the narrator to show the rise and fall of seven generations of the family without limit, endow the story with authority and epic feeling, and let the reader witness the honor and dishonor of the family comprehensively and deeply. In the Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out, Mo Yan uses multiple perspectives, alternating the animal perspective of Simon Nao's six

reincarnations with the human perspective to construct a multi-dimensional narrative space, it enriches the story and makes the narrative more vivid and interesting. There are similarities and differences in the use of visual angle between the two works. The similarities are that they both enhance the narrative effect and depth of the story through the use of unique visual angle. The difference is that the omniscient perspective of the *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is more comprehensive and authoritative, while the multiple perspectives of the *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out* are more flexible and vivid, with different perspectives used interchangeably, shows a much richer story.

2.2. The comparison between fixed character's restricted perspective and animal's external perspective

In the *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, the fixed point of view is mainly through the eyes of Buendia family members to show the rise and fall of the family and magical reality. This perspective enhances the authenticity of the story and the inner depth of the characters, enabling the reader to deeply experience the emotions and fates of the characters. Buendia's sense of creativity and loneliness, for example, is deeply and empathically portrayed through his lens. The *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out* uses a unique animal perspective to observe the changes of Chinese rural society through Simon Nao's six cycles of reincarnation. This kind of visual angle breaks the traditional narrative boundary, makes the story full of fantastic color, and reveals the complexity of human nature and the changes of society. The objective calmness of the animal perspective is in sharp contrast to the emotional entanglement of human beings, which strengthens the reflection of the works. In the narrative function, the fixed angle of view focuses on the inner world and destiny of the characters, while the animal angle of view provides a new perspective through the non-human angle of view, broaden the breadth and depth of the narrative. Both have their own merits and enrich the nature of literary narration.

2.3. The comparison between the perspective of first-person experience and inner monologue

In the *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, the first-person perspective enhances the story's sense of reality and immersion by allowing the reader to experience what they see and hear directly through the narrative of specific characters, such as Melquiades. This perspective goes deep into the character's heart, showing the unique experience and deep feelings of the character, making the character more full. “The *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out*” uses inner monologue to depict the complex psychology of characters such as Simon Nao. The inner monologue reveals the characters' thoughts and feelings directly, deepens the shaping of the characters' characters, and makes the readers understand the motives and choices of the characters more deeply. This technique adds emotional depth and literary charm to the work. ^[1]The similarities and differences in the first-person narrative of the two works lie in the fact that the first-person perspective of the *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is more focused on showing the history of the whole family and nation through the perspective of specific characters, the *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out*'s inner monologue focuses more on the inner world of a single character. ^[1]Although the techniques are different, but both effectively enhance the narrative effect of the works and the depth of characterization.

3. Comparative analysis of narrative structure

3.1. The analysis of circular narrative and reincarnation structure

Through the rise and fall of the Buendia family, the *One Hundred Years of Solitude* reveals the

repetition of history and the helplessness of Fate. This kind of structure not only strengthens the magic realism color of the novel, but also deeply reveals the fate of human loneliness and isolation. Marcos Paulo Souza Ribeiro cleverly connects the beginning and the end of the story, creating a time loop that symbolizes the inescapable fate of the Buendia family and the small town of Macondo. “The Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out”, on the other hand, constructs a unique structure of reincarnation, which links the reincarnation of hsi-men Nao's spirit in the six paths and the social changes in China over the past half century. Reincarnation is not only a modern interpretation of Buddhist thought, but also a symbol of the continuation of life and social reincarnation. Each incarnation of Simon Nao takes part in human affairs as an animal, which not only enriches the narrative level, but also endows the work with profound symbolic meaning. There are both similarities and differences in the structure of the two works. The similarity lies in their use of non-linear narrative, through repetition and circulation to explore the deep themes of life and history. ^[2]The difference is that the cycle of the One Hundred Years of Solitude is more about time and the fate of the family, while the cycle of the Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out is infused with Buddhist ideas and animal perspectives, make the narrative more diverse and complex.

3.2. The contrast between paragraph division and chapter arrangement

In the One Hundred Years of Solitude, the division of paragraphs does not strictly follow the traditional chapter form, but rather integrates the whole book into 20 parts, which are related to each other and form a whole. This unique method of paragraph division makes the novel more fluent in narrative, and can freely travel in different time and space, it tells the story of seven generations of the Buendia family, and a century of Macondo's rise and fall. This narrative effect reinforces the magic realism of the novel, leaving the reader in a world of mystery and fantasy. By contrast, the Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out adopts a more traditional approach, with five sections, each containing several chapters, each with a clear title and content. This chapter arrangement makes the structure of the novel more clear, so that readers can grasp the context and rhythm of the story. At the same time, Mo Yan shows great flexibility in the chapter arrangement, through multi-perspective narration and time-space conversion, making the novel keep the whole coherence, but at the same time lose the richness and diversity. The different strategies in the structure and layout of the two works reflect the authors' unique creative ideas and artistic pursuits. Through the non-linear paragraph division, the One Hundred Years of Solitude pursues a narrative effect that transcends time and space “The Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out”, on the other hand, shows the historical changes of a family and society through traditional chapter arrangement and flexible narrative techniques.

3.3. The treatment and contrast of narrative time

The treatment of time in One Hundred Years of Solitude has a magical effect. It adopts a non-linear narrative technique, in which time moves freely between the past, present and future, forming a cyclical view of time. This kind of treatment not only breaks the linear structure of traditional narrative, but also strengthens the fatalism of family fate through repetition and circulation, making readers feel the weight and magic of history in the maze of time. “The Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out” is a narrative of time spanning life and death through Simon Nao's six cycles of reincarnation. The novel begins in 1950, after half a century, through the reincarnation of Simon Nao many times, will be different historical periods of social changes and personal fate closely linked. This time narrative not only has a strong religious color, but also reflects the social reality and the complexity of human nature, leading readers to think about the meaning and value of life. The commonness of the two works in time narration lies in that they both break the traditional

linear concept of time and enrich the narrative level and depth by non-linear or supernatural time treatment. However, their personalities are also distinctive, with the *One Hundred Years of Solitude* focusing on the cycle of time and a sense of destiny, while the *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out* focuses on social change and human complexity through samsara. This combination of commonness and individuality makes the two works have their own characteristics in narrative time, which is fascinating.

4. Comparative analysis of narrative language

4.1. A language style of fantasy and reality

In the comparative analysis of narrative language, we can observe the unique performance of the *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and the *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out* in the interweaving of fantasy and reality. Known for its magical language, “The *One Hundred Years of Solitude*” is a masterful supernatural of Garsia Marcos Paulo Souza Ribeiro's depiction of everyday life, its intermingling of life and death, as well as the yellow butterfly symbol of love, ant symbol of destruction and other symbolic elements, to build a real and dream world. This language style not only enhances the expressive force of the story, but also reveals the history and reality of Latin deeply. The *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out* shows Mo Yan's unique narrative talent through the fusion of realistic care and magical elements. In the novel, Donkey, cow, pig and other animals are endowed with human's emotion and thought, they observe and participate in the social change with the unique angle of view, it also deeply reflects the Chinese peasants' living conditions and spiritual outlook since half a century ago. The two works permeate and influence each other in language style, showing the unique charm of the magic realism. They all reveal the reality by means of magic, and support the magic with the content of the reality, which makes the works contain profound ideological connotation and humanistic care under the absurd appearance. The mutual infiltration and influence of this kind of language style not only enriches the expression form of literature, but also broadens the reader's Reading Horizon.

4.2. Free indirect speech and the use of language games

In exploring the use of language in *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out*, both show superb narrative skills. The use of free indirect speech is particularly prominent in the *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. This method omits the reported verbs and conjunctions, makes the narration more close to or directly quote the original words of the characters, and enhances the authenticity of the language and the inner expression of the characters. This technique not only enriches the narrative level, but also enables the reader to understand the emotional and ideological state of the characters more deeply, and enhances the artistic appeal of the works. The *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out* is known for its unique language game and strong regional color. Mo Yan skillfully uses dialect, slang and other local characteristic languages to construct a story world full of local flavor. At the same time, he creates a kind of absurd and true narrative effect by means of exaggeration and distortion of language, which makes his works full of literary imagination and creativity as well as social reality. The regional color and innovation in the use of this language add a unique charm to the work. ^[3]The innovations and differences in the use of language in the two works reflect the unique pursuit and exploration of narrative language and literary style by different writers. They all display the diversity and richness of literature in their own unique ways.

4.3. A comparison of narrative rhythm and language tension

In the comparison of narrative rhythm and language tension, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out* have their own merits. In “*The One Hundred Years of Solitude*”, Marcos Paulo Souza Ribeiro uses his narrative skills to tell the story of seven generations of the Buendia family. In the novel, there are not only the smooth family routine, but also the magic plot with climax, which makes the story full of tension. In language, Marcos Paulo Souza Ribeiro used a lot of symbolic, metaphorical and other rhetorical devices to enhance the depth and breadth of language, making the whole narrative process full of magical color and philosophical thinking. “*The Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out*”, with its unique structure and vivid language description, shows the half-century course of Ximena and his family. Mo Yan's narrative rhythm is compact and varied. Through the setting of six paths of reincarnation, the stories under different life forms are connected to form a unique narrative rhythm. In terms of language, Mo Yan is good at using dialect slang and exaggeration to create a language style that is both grounded and full of tension, making the whole story both real and imaginative. The similarities and differences between the two works in narrative rhythm and language tension are mainly embodied in: they both show their respective story world with unique narrative rhythm and vivid language description; But “*The One Hundred Years of Solitude*” is more magical and philosophical, while “*The Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out*” is more realistic and regional. At the same time, the two works in the narrative rhythm of change and language tension in the performance of superb skills and unique style.

5. A comparative analysis of symbolic techniques

5.1. The contrast between color symbol and image construction

In the comparative analysis of symbolism, color symbolism and image construction are the important features of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out*. In “*One Hundred Years of Solitude*”, the color symbol is especially prominent, especially the yellow image. Yellow in the novel symbolizes death, decay and misfortune, such as the appearance of yellow flowers often indicates the death of the character, the little goldfish implied the existence of loneliness and the fate of the cycle. These color symbols not only enrich the visual effects of the novel, but also deepen the theme of expression, so that the reader in the visual and emotional resonance. *The Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out*, by contrast, focuses more on imagery. Mo Yan has constructed a series of symbolic images by means of Simon Nao's six paths of reincarnation and narration from different animal perspectives. These images not only show the diversity and complexity of life, but also deeply reflect the social reality and human nature. For example, donkey, cow, pig and other animals are not only the characters in the story, but also symbolize different life states and human nature. The use of symbolism in the two works has its own merits. “*The One Hundred Years of Solitude*” conveys the theme and emotion through the color symbol, while “*The Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out*” reveals the inner logic of life and society through the image construction. Although they have different choice of symbolism, both of them have successfully realized the artistic representation and profound reflection on the real world.

5.2. The fusion of myth and historical allusion

In fusing mythological and historical allusions, the *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and the *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out* show different narrative strategies and cultural connotations. In the *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Marcos Paulo Souza Ribeiro skillfully introduces Indian legends, eastern myths and biblical allusions, which not only add mystery to the novel but also deepen its

theme. For example, the ghost of Plue's Duncio Aguilar haunts the Buendia family day and night, based on the story of the vengeful ghost in Indian legend, symbolizing the heavy and inescapable fate of the family's history. The use of these myths and legends makes the novel more colorful in the narrative, but also enhance the reader's understanding of Latin n history and culture and feelings. "Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out" is more about Chinese historical allusions and folklore. Mo Yan combines the Buddhist concept of reincarnation with the vicissitudes of Chinese rural society through the story of six paths of reincarnation by ximennao, showing the living state and spiritual pursuit of peasants in the historical flood. At the same time, there are many metaphors and reflections on such historical events as the land reform, the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution. The similarities and differences between the two works in the fusion of myth, legend and historical allusion are mainly reflected in the cultural background and narrative focus. The One Hundred Years of Solitude pays more attention to the excavation and presentation of the native Latin n culture, the Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out focuses more on the mapping of Chinese history and reality. However, both of them have successfully enriched the narrative content, deepened the theme expression and displayed their unique literary charm through the fusion of myth and legend with historical allusion.

5.3. The construction and contrast of symbolic system

In the construction of the symbolic system, the One Hundred Years of Solitude and the Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out respectively construct unique and profound symbolic systems. The symbolic system of the One Hundred Years of Solitude is complex and elaborate, covering natural objects, family members, historical events and many other aspects. Yellow, for example, symbolizes decay and death, while the fates of members of the Buendia family represent different forms of loneliness. These symbolic elements interweave with each other to construct a world full of magic color and philosophical thinking. The deep meaning lies in revealing the lonely fate of families and nations as well as the cycles of human history. The symbolic system of Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out focuses more on life, society and historical change. Simon Nao's six paths of reincarnation is not only the embodiment of the Buddhist concept of reincarnation, but also a symbol of the tenacity and tenacity of life. At the same time, the images of animals and historical events in the novel are also rich in symbolic significance, revealing the farmers' living state and spiritual pursuit in the historical flood. Its social implication is to reflect on the impact of social change on individual destiny and the complexity and changeability of human nature. The commonness of the two works in the construction of the symbolic system lies in the use of rich symbolic techniques to deepen the expression of the theme and enhance the literary charm of the works. However, they have their own characteristics in the choice and application of symbolic elements, showing different cultural backgrounds and narrative styles. The symbolic system of the One Hundred Years of Solitude is more abstract and grand, while the Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out is more concrete and vivid, close to the reality of Chinese rural society.^[4] This combination of commonness and individuality makes the two works unique in the construction of the symbolic system, impressive.

6. Conclusion

Through a comparative analysis of the narrative strategies and symbolism in the One Hundred Years of Solitude and the Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out, we can find that although both works belong to the magic realism, but in the specific narrative time and language processing, the construction of the symbolic system and other aspects also showed a clear personality and differences. These differences not only reflect different writers' unique understanding and

innovative practice of magic realism, but also provide us with a richer and more diverse literary aesthetic experience. At the same time, with their profound symbolic meaning and unique narrative style, the two works reveal the cycles of human history, the tenacity and tenacity of life, and the complexity and changeability of human nature, it provides us with valuable literary wealth and profound ideological enlightenment.

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