

Research on Gender Relations-Taking Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land as an Example

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Abstract. Lai Shengchuan 's classic drama Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land shows the chaos and conflict of gender relations through intricate marriage and love stories. The interweaving plots in the works reveal the multiple faces of marriage and love in contemporary society and touch on people's deep discussion on the relationship between ideal life, love, and marriage. These emotional entanglements not only reflect the individual's inner conflicts but also reflect a wider range of social and cultural phenomena. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the composition of different marriage and love relationships in the drama Peach Blossom Land, and to explore the social, psychological, and cultural factors behind it. This study adopts the text analysis method to analyze the gender relations and conflicts between the characters in the play by carefully interpreting the marriage and love plots in Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land, combined with sociological and psychological theories. The study found that the marriage and love plots in Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land show obvious irrational and chaotic characteristics. This chaos is not only the artistic expression of the script but also reflects the contradiction and irrationality of society's expectations of marriage and love. A healthy marriage needs to be based on a deep emotional foundation and mutual respect, and the boundaries between love and marriage should be clear, to avoid emotional disorder and conflict.

Keywords: Secretly Love in Peach Blossom, gender relations, marriage and Love.

1. Introduction

Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land is one of the classic dramas of director Lai Shengchuan, known as 'the leader of the Asian theatre', and premiered in 1986. In 1988, the play won the National Literary and Art Award, and the New York Times called it "the most popular work in the Chinese world." It has been nearly 30 years since the film was released, and the Douban score is still high at 8.5 points. *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land* is a drama that spans time and space. It shows the love and marriage of gender relations, as well as the gap between imagination and reality.

This study focuses on the life of the last century, mainly on the three aspects of love, marriage, and sex, and uses the literature analysis method to find and read the relevant information and literature. The ultimate research goal of this study is to explore the significance of the relationship between the two sexes in the *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land*.

2. Background

At that time, the social restrictions on artistic creation were gradually relaxed, which provided the soil for the birth of innovative works such as *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land*. In this work, through the interweaving of tragedy and comedy, Lai Shengchuan reflects on the chaos and the process of finding order in the process of social transformation. *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land* mainly tells the story of *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land*. Because of the close performance, the two drama groups rented the same stage for rehearsal. After a debate, the two drama groups evolved from the initial rehearsal to the story of 'different places with the same stage'. The background of *Secret Love* is based on the 19th century. It is a modern drama. The main content is that young men and women Jiang Binliu and Yun Zhifan met in Shanghai. After the war, the two fled to the same city, but they did not know each other 40 years later, they were able to meet, but at this time, they had already formed a family. Although *Peach Blossom Land* takes tragedy as the background, it adopts

the technique of dramatic expression. Taking Jintai Yuanzhong as the background of the times, it tells the story of Lao Tao, a fisherman from Wuling, whose wife Chunhua has an affair with Yuan's boss. Lao Tao left home to escape reality and found *Peach Blossom Land*. The people Lao Tao met after the Peach Blossom Land were still Chunhua and Yuan's bosses, but they were paradoxical. The three had a happy time. Later, after Lao Tao returned to Wuling, he thought it was not long before he found that it had been several years in real life. Chunhua had become a family and had children with Yuan's bosses. But found that could no longer find the entrance at that time, it seemed that everything was just his dream.

Secret Love and *Peach Blossom Land* seem to be two independent stories of different backgrounds and different ages, but in fact, the two are connected. After entering Taohuayuan, Laotao returned home because he missed his wife. He saw that his wife had reconnected with Yuan boss. Jiang Binliu recalled a beautiful past and had to face the reality of life. The beautiful life experienced by Lao Tao in paradise is the same as the romantic and sweet situation of Jiang Binliu when he was in contact with Yun Zhifan. It is impossible to go back again.

3. Love and Marriage

The *Secret Love of Taohuayuan* is divided into two parts: *Secret Love* and 'Taohuayuan'. It mainly tells three stories: the chaotic triangular relationship between Laotao, Chunhua, and Yuan boss, the husband-wife relationship between Baipao men and women in Taohuayuan, and the love between Jiangbinliu and Yunzhifan, which implies the tragic marriage between Jiangbinliu and Mrs. Jiang. *Peach Blossom Land* is an unrealistic fantasy and an unattainable Utopia for everyone. People's exploration of the Peach Blossom Land reflects their escape from real life and their dissatisfaction with their emotional marriage life. In the story, Lao Tao entered Taohuayuan to escape the improper relationship between his wife Chunhua and Yuan boss in real life. He found that he could not bear the current situation and had to succumb to this life, so he chose to leave home. Although he did not find the so-called *Peach Blossom Land*, it did not mean that he was satisfied with his real emotional life. He had not found his first love. Under the pressure of reality, he had a blind date with Mrs. Jiang and married. He had been escaping in his heart. The woman who married himself in the escapism was not his first heart. The two contents of *Secret Love* and *Peach Blossom* seem to have nothing to do with each other, but together they just reflect several completely different views of love and marriage to the audience.

3.1. Module Psychology

Modular psychology makes a different understanding of the relationship between structure and function from the traditional understanding. Psychology and body can be regarded as the existence of two forms of function and structure. From the perspective of modular psychology, the scientific psychology constructed under the traditional concept lacks attention to function and psychology [1]. Therefore, we can analyze the relationship between the two sexes from the perspective of modular psychology, to obtain the modular theory of gender relations. Starting from the 'functional decomposition' of its essence, sex, love, and marriage can be decomposed into three independent modules. From the perspective of psychological mechanisms, the separability of sex and love is demonstrated. Love itself means sex, while sex does not necessarily mean love, which is the substantive meaning of the separation of sex and love. When love comes, it is the time of sexual activity, so sexual activity is the inevitable derivative of love. The reason why people mistakenly believe that marriage is the inevitable result of love is that love plays a secondary guiding role. However, from the perspective of scientific psychology, love and marriage do not constitute a causal relationship. Love is important, but it is only a potential cause, love and marriage is a 'related' relationship, rather than a causal relationship [2]. Therefore, marriage is not the inevitable result of love.

If people ignore the functional distinction between love, marriage, and sex, or confuse or replace the functions of the three, then the emotional relationship between the two sexes will be problematic or crisis. From the perspective of Chunhua, Lao Tao and Yuan Boss are the difference between reality and ideal. Her marriage with Laotao lacks love and sex, so she steals love with Yuan's boss, seemingly reaping happiness and beauty, and reaping the love she longed for. She looked forward to bonding with Yuan's boss in her heart. Therefore, when Lao Tao learned the truth and ran away from home, he did not return for many years. Chunhua got what she wanted and was really with Yuan's boss. They became parents and children. However, after the marriage, Chunhua's marriage life was not as happy as she imagined. After her marriage, there was only a dispute between her and Yuan's boss. What was the difference between her marriage and the original one? Lao Tao originally had a marriage, but his marriage was full of contradictions. He could not give Chunhua the love and sex he wanted, so his marriage was not two people, but three people's deformed and chaotic relationship, which seemed comedy but tragedy. In the Peach Blossom Land, Lao Tao found that the woman in the fairy couple was the same as his wife Chunhua. Here Lao Tao is warmly welcomed by people. However, Lao Tao always cherished Chunhua in his heart. Even if he knew the improper relationship between her and Yuan boss, he still wanted to maintain the relationship between husband and wife with her. So Lao Tao left Taohuayuan and returned to the home which made him sad. In the long-term marriage life, even if the two sides have love in their hearts, they will gradually be obliterated. Such marriages may lack sex and love.

3.2. Realistic Background

Different social backgrounds lead to different values and further promote gender relations. For example, the French writer Andre Gide's novella *Narrow Door*. The author vividly fixed the French family scene at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century on white paper. In the book, Gide pushes the mystical experience of love to the extreme, telling a pure and hot love story with endless loneliness and infinite bitterness [3]. Similar to *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land*, the 'Narrow Door' also explores love and marriage through many aspects, such as the hazed marriage of Blanco and Lucille, the tragic love of Jerome and Ashley, and the bubble love of Juliette and Abel. The author relies on the work to praise the noble love, which reflects the marriage and love view influenced by different mental outlooks at different times. For example, the well-known "Dream of Red Mansions," reflects the vulnerability of emerging civil society forces and its historical destiny in the first half of the eighteenth century. In A Dream of Red Mansions, the love between Baoyu and Daiyu is tragic, reflecting the oppression of feudal ethics on personal emotions. In this society, personal emotions succumb to the shackles of feudal ethics. The love tragedy of Jia Baoyu and Lin Daiyu is the most intuitive victim of this bondage. Among them, Jia Baoyu and Xue Baochai's marriage is a measure of advantages and disadvantages. They are the words of the parents' order matchmaker. Jia Baoyu and Lin Daiyu are lovers who find it difficult to get married. In that era, love often became the victim of the exchange of family interests. This is not only the tragedy of Baoyu and Daiyu, but also the common tragedy of countless men and women in the whole feudal society [4]. It was a common phenomenon in that era that lovers find it difficult to get married, so readers are full of emotion for the love of Baoyu and Daiyu, and also sigh for the final tragic ending of Baoyu and Daiyu. Whether it is the love tragedy between Bao and Dai, or the marriage tragedy between Baochai, they are all martyrs in that feudal era [5]. This is the result of different gender relations formed by different social situations.

4. Discussion

Secret Love, Jiang Binliu and Yun's lovers find it difficult to enter the palace of marriage. Their love is a tragedy, but in fact, the lack of love between Mrs. Jiang and Jiang Binliu is not a tragedy. There is no sex and love in the marriage between Lao Tao and Chunhua in the Peach Blossom Land. Therefore, Chunhua is bored with this marriage state, so he secretly loves Yuan's boss. Chunhua and

Yuan's boss first started with sex or love, but after they became married, they found that their marriage was not as good as they imagined, but also sad. The worldly fairy couple that Lao Tao met in Taohuayuan is his yearning for a better life and his pursuit of love and marriage, but this marriage state is illusory. The reason for the above situation is that they confuse the functions of marriage, love, and sex, and think that love can be equal to marriage and sex. Marriage and love are different. Love and sex can be produced between two people who have no burden, while marriage requires the joint management of life by two people.

The intersection of the scenes of 'Secret Love of Taohuayuan' interprets the tragedy of time and the comedy of space. Whether it is the separation of characters in 'secret love' or the blind obsession of Lao Tao in 'Taohuayuan', it will scour the bitter stone that symbolizes love in the long river of time and gradually derive a sense of sadness [6]. The love story in 'Secret Love' is a fairy tale. It is a kind of love but not lost, but also a yearning for sincere love. Peach Blossom Land is the reality. It is the common life of the common people. It is also a kind of helplessness and melancholy of a mediocre life. Therefore, to maintain a good gender relationship, it is necessary to distinguish and understand the functions of marriage and love.

5. Conclusion

In today's society, love and marriage are still one of the focuses of people's attention for a long time. The difference between the two is that love is a spiritual life based on ideals, while marriage is a social life based on reality.

The problem of gender relations that people are facing today is actually similar to the emotional and marital life of the characters in The Peach Blossom Land. The tragedy of love and marriage shown in The Peach Blossom Land is not just a few simple stories of several people, but the author's thinking about love and marriage. The results of this study show that different social environmental factors will affect the generation of gender relations, to further draw the conclusion that the function of marriage and love needs to be clearly distinguished and defined. This study provides a lot of valuable reference significance for future research on the direction of gender relations. Future research should focus more on the factors such as creative background.

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