

Seeing the Construction of Empire Space in <Captain Singleton>

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Abstract: Around the 18th century in Britain, literary works on the subject of travel and adventure were abundant. A large number of these works are widely welcomed by lovers of literature around the world. These works represent the imagination of space, and at the same time show readers one after another fantasy world and strange adventures. The famous novel "Captain Singleton" vividly presents an increasingly powerful empire to readers through a comparison of barbarism and civilization. It depicts the connection between the social situation of the British people at that time and the British war. This article briefly analyzes the construction of empire space.

Captain Singleton is a masterpiece of Daniel Defoe, the representative of British realist novels. Captain Singleton and his other work, Robinson Crusoe, have played a historic role in the rise of the novel. Although "Robinson Crusoe" is even better in terms of influence.[1] But this does not affect the importance of "Captain Singleton" in the history of the novel. It tells the story of a British travelling the world, plundering wealth and returning to his country after becoming rich. The hero's experience is legendary in every respect. The article has little description of Britain. But readers can vaguely feel the author's intentions for Britain to become the center of the world at that time. To some extent it presents a rising empire. The narrative space of the article extends to most of the European colonial regions. Due to the different geographical locations and cultural characteristics, there are also large differences. In this vast empire space, the protagonist began his life full of adventure and legend. Around the 18th century, Britain was not an absolute hegemon in Europe, and its degree of colonization was far from that of the Netherlands and Portugal. Literary works at that time also became a tool for declaring authority and rule in the British Empire. The establishment of the empire system in the novel directly reflects the ambition of the British Empire to aggressively invade overseas. The hero in the novel has visited different spaces, and each kind of space has set the background of the story.[2] And different spaces reflect the British colonial ideology to varying degrees, and it is this writing technique that gives readers a wider space for thinking.

I. Empire in Narrative Space

Captain Singleton and Robinson Crusoe can be called brothers, because they have a lot in common in the plot setting. The protagonists in both novels have been to the same places, but Singleton has been to more and farther places. When Singleton and his party went deeper into Africa's outback, the author described a lot of local natural resources. This is not only to increase the richness of the situation, it seems to be more a signal to the colonists, tempting them to come here as soon as possible to develop new markets. All this is slowly presented in the plot development of the novel. In this novel, the area adopted by Captain Singleton is divided into three parts: one is the familiar surrounding area controlled by the British expander; The second is that although it is not a colonial area, there is commercial dealings with the area; the third is an area where British colonists have not arrived. The historical background and conditions of each region are different and there are large differences. The historical background and characteristics of these regions combine to become the connotation and meaning of the novel. It is beneficial for most readers to understand better.[3]

The narrative background in this novel is in a dynamic process of change. With the constant change of the travel location of the protagonist, the narrative background is also constantly changing. Although it describes the people and things in the characteristic environment from the personal perspective of the protagonist, they are all in the background of the era of the crazy colonial expansion of the British empire. First, at that time, Britain did not directly colonize the African continent on a large scale, but only established a few trading points on the coast to trade slaves, minerals, etc. This was in sharp contrast to the large-scale colonial development of the Netherlands, and also caused Britain's relative disadvantage in the colonial expansion of imperialist countries. Therefore, the novel USES singleton's personal perspective to discover the rich natural resources of the African continent, showing the urgency of rapid and large-scale colonial expansion of Africa. Second, Mr Singh and others by sea pirate career to get a lot of wealth, and these wealth goods mainly come from the third world countries, type of this kind of personal wealth usurpation, thought can get, is with the means of the primitive accumulation of capital is consistent, in such a background, the use of this political and economic means, is in the national interest. Thirdly, although singleton et al. never landed in the eastern countries, they gained a lot of wealth by intercepting the merchant ships of these eastern countries, thus arousing readers' infinite association and greed for the wealth of these eastern countries. In this way, the authorities and the government to accelerate the development of aggressive plans to expand the scope of colonization.

In the 18th century, all powerful nations went crazy to colonize and expand, and most of the European colonies began to rob colonies. However, at this time Britain was in the development stage and there were a lot of disadvantages in many aspects. As a spokesperson for the ruling class of society, Fu Di said in the novel that it is very important to develop economy and trade and vigorously expand colonies. Under the conditions at that time, combined with the characteristics of the region and the composition of the structure, the British had a great desire to carry out a crazy colonial expansion.

II. Empires Described from A Geographic Perspective

In Captain Singleton, Singleton has been involved in almost every part of the world, passing through vast areas along the way. In terms of the regional characteristics of the novel itself, the narrative space in the novel has certain value and significance, and provides guidance for readers' sublimation from simple and emotional experience to the understanding of the entire world. Therefore, from this perspective, Defoe did not simply portray each place in the novel, but actually carried out further creation. In this space, the author extends power to other vast areas. Allow readers to independently identify and affirm Singleton's actions. It provided ample reasons for the further expansion and colonization of Britain, which in turn constructed and extended the power of empire space.

Africa is where Singleton first explored and ventured. According to Defoe, the African continent has provided Britain with good colonial conditions. Only through colonial methods can the value of this place be reflected. Its good name can promote local development. When Singleton came to Africa for the first time, he regarded this place as a poor, barren, primitive and barren land, where the people were brutal and brutal. But the fact is that his first trip to Africa went smoothly. After the trip, Singleton also gained a lot of wealth. However, in Fu Di's novels, Africa is still in primitive society. In his knowledge, African residents do not have the ability to develop the potential value of this place, misleading readers. Their purpose of coming to Africa is to help the people here to justify the British colonization and expansion.

In addition, the description of the Eastern World in the novel becomes an extension of the empire space and is not directly expressed. For a long time, many European countries, including Britain, have inexplicable fantasies and fears about the Eastern World. But it gives readers unlimited space to imagine. Defoe narrated two aspects of the East. On the one hand, they were large differences and complex contradictions and conflicts; on the other hand, they described the wealth in the East. For example, when Singleton and others arrived in Taiwan, they disguised the true identity of the original pirates as serious businessmen, and sold the previously plundered materials to Taiwanese

businessmen, and made good profits. The description of this plot shows that the Empire colony saw the vast market in the East, but also saw the conflict between the East and the West.[3]

III. An Empire Unfolded with Full Imagination

Realist novels have sprung up in Britain in the 18th century. Both the work itself and the expressive form are loved by readers. Defoe's novel possesses a high degree of imagination. In a very euphemistic and implicit way, he expresses his idea of colonizing and expanding in Britain. However, the author's mainstream consciousness at that time turned into personal consciousness, and later established the empire imagined by the colonists in this space.

At the same time, the colonists madly expanded and colonized, laying a solid foundation for the establishment of empire space. However, Defoe himself had never been to these places. At that time, people from all walks of life in Britain paid great attention to other overseas works, because the author and readers were in the same era background. This facilitated them to build an empire space through imagination together. What Defoe wants to reflect is far beyond real life. Although Singleton's travel experience is fictional, but because of what he shows, it is within the reader's cognitive scope. If necessary, the author can appropriately distort the facts to fit the horizon of the reader's expectations. When Singleton sailed overseas, he used exchanges with different regions to reflect the different conditions experienced during colonial expansion. The colonists always followed the principle of the supremacy of interests: in the course of overseas expansion, they treated each other profitably and friendly; they stopped when they were not profitable; Therefore, this kind of immoral behavior of Singleton and others is reasonable and reasonable in the rest of the British perception. It is correct and just behavior and practice.[4]

As Singleton and others prepared to return from the East, they learned that 13 Britons were trapped in Japan due to the severe stormy weather. The Japanese rescued them, but in turn they tricked the locals into giving up their original beliefs. Because of this incident, they angered the locals and put themselves in danger, but they did not feel a little fearful or afraid when facing the danger of life. Singleton praised them and set out to rescue them. For various reasons, this operation ended in failure. [5] Singleton and others believe that this kind of behavior of opening up new channels is for the common interest of mankind, and also to open a new path for the harmonious development of mankind. The novel tells this place that the British turned into a savior. This is an incentive for more Europeans to join this behavior. When the West realized that it had the power to colonize the East, in this case, the British Empire madly colonized the East to the East.

IV. Conclusion

In the novel "Captain Singleton", the author provided an imaginary geospatial basis for the practical actions of the colonial expansion of the Empire by describing the hero's overseas adventures, which largely matched the British colonial cause. It also opened the way for bourgeois ideology. It has promoted the unity of the British people's ideology, and at the same time alleviated the disadvantaged situation in the UK's economy and trade to a certain extent, thereby accelerating the speed of Britain's overall strength. The process of expanding or colonizing Britain to other regions has also accelerated.

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