# **熟**等文学 自主学习与实践

Autonomous Learning and Practice in English and American Literature



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"质量工程"是当下高校教学工作的主题,课程建设是实现这一工程的基础。而在课程建设中,教材建设是其重要组成部分,是深化教育教学改革、全面提升教学质量、培养创新型和应用型人才的重要保证。《英美文学自主学习与实践》这本教材则是加强英美文学课程建设的具体体现。

《英美文学自主学习与实践》是河北省社科基金重点课题"英美文学自主学习与实践研究——英美文学精品课程教材建设"的研究成果。本成果由"知识链条"、"实践园地"、"论文写作范文"和"学习课件"四部分构成,涉及英美文学各时期的33个主要历史事件、在文本分析和文献综述中涉及的58个文学术语、71个主要作家及其创作特点、72个作品分析与文献综述、1篇本科毕业论文范文、13个章节的综合测试题和答案以及含有近3000张幻灯片的学习课件。

《英美文学自主学习与实践》对学生的自主学习与实践具有很强的指导意义。具体说 来,其优势有:(1)"主要事件"提供了文学创作的历史背景,帮助学生更好地理解作家 的创作思想和作品内涵;(2)"文学术语"以简短明快的文字概述了作品分析中所涉及的 主要术语,增加学生对作家及其作品的深入了解:(3)"作家作品及其创作特点"将作家 姓名、年代、作品名称、出版年代以及作品中的人物或主题思想,通过"图示法"点点相 通、条条相连、语言简洁、生动形象、解决了学生记忆难的问题;(4)"作家作品欣赏与 分析"是通过研读精选的章节,分析文本的鲜明的语言特点,它是对文本分析的一个典型 示范,解决了学生分析能力和语言表达能力薄弱的问题;(5)"文献综述"以"时间为 序"、"观点分类"等不同的综述方法概述国内外的研究现状,使学生了解综述的含义, 掌握综述的写作格式与方法;(6)"注释"和"参考文献"中所列出的网站地址,让学生 得以迅速查到网站, 获取更多所需的相关资料; (7) "综合测试" 既是对学生文学知识与 文本分析的综合检测,又是对未提及的一些作家作品的补充,更是全面锤炼学生综合技能 的训练场;(8)"论文写作范文"挑选写作规范的毕业论文,使学生能够了解本科毕业论 文的格式,熟悉文前文本、文本和文后文本的写作方法,为写出规范、高质量的论文奠定 基础;(9)"自学课堂"中的自主学习课件做到了图片、文字、音频、视频并茂, 生动有 趣,能够达到巩固文学知识、拓展语言技能、提高综合素养的效果。

此外,《英美文学自主学习与实践》具备如下三个特点。

第一,本研究成果具有完整性。教材中的"知识链条"模块为学生勾勒出一张明晰的文学基础知识概况图,如作家创作的历史背景、文学术语、作家作品及其创作特点;"实践园地"和"论文写作范文"模块借助作品欣赏与分析、文献综述和综合测试,为学生创建了一个提高"读、析、赏、测、写"五个能力的平台。因此,本研究成果在其内容上有所突破,具有广泛的应用价值。

第二,本研究成果具有可选择性。英美文学知识与实践采用模块方式编写,学生可根据自己的需求,根据目录导航选择学习和实践内容。学习课件的单一功能转变为多元功



能,既具有可学性,又具有可教性和开放性。13个章节的英美文学学习课件既可以用于学生的自主学习,又可以让教师有选择地将它作为教学课件,同时,教师也可以根据教学任务增补演示内容。因此,学习课件在其功能上有了突破,具有多功能的应用价值。

第三,本研究成果具有多模态性。本教材将纸质教材与演示教材相结合,做到了图画与文字、声音与文字、视频与声音的相互协作,多角度刺激学生的感官。语篇深入浅出,层层嵌入,学生可以借助网站地址轻松链接相应的学习网站,拓展知识。因此,本教材融"知识、文化、技能、兴趣、情操、创新、竞争"为一体,具有较高的应用价值。

《英美文学自主学习与实践》的编写任务按英美两国文学各个时期的历史事件、文学术语、作家作品及其创作特点、文本赏析与分析、文献综述、综合测试分工。魏晓红老师负责 17 世纪和 18 世纪英国文学部分的编写以及英国文学的课件制作,赵丽娟老师负责英国浪漫主义和现实主义文学的编写,孙红艳老师负责美国 20 世纪文学的编写及其课件制作,简海红老师负责美国殖民和革命时期、浪漫主义和现实主义文学的编写及其课件制作,薛梅老师负责英国早中期、文艺复兴和"二战"前后文学的编写,王杏娟老师负责英国 19 世纪中后期至 20 世纪文学的编写,索笑雯老师负责目录编辑、封面设计等工作。

《英美文学自主学习与实践》不仅可用做高校英语专业英美文学课程的辅助教材,而且还可供广大英语教师、报考英语专业研究生以及高级阶段的英语学习者参考使用。

在《英美文学自主学习与实践》出版之际,非常感谢天津大学出版社的大力支持,感谢河北省社会科学规划办、上海外语教育出版社和邯郸学院对本课题的资助,感谢河北师范大学郭群英教授、天津财经大学孙建成教授、河北工程大学韩力扬教授对本书的审读与修改建议。

由于课题组成员的水平有限,书中如有疏漏之处,欢迎各位同行和广大读者不吝指正。

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**Thesis Writing Sample** 

# 邯郸学院本科毕业论文

题 目 析《弗洛斯河上的磨坊》的语言特色

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## On the Language Features in The Mill on the Floss

By Bao Jingru

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A Thesis Submitted to School of Foreign Languages
Of Handan College in Partial Fulfillment
Of the Requirement for the Degree
Of Bachelor of Arts
Handan, China
May, 2011

## 郑重声明

本人的毕业论文是在指导教师魏晓红的指导下独立撰写完成的。如有剽窃、抄袭、造假等违反学术道德、学术规范和侵权的行为,本人愿意承担由此产生的各种后果,直至法律责任,并愿意通过网络接受公众的监督。特此郑重声明。

毕业论文作者: 鲍敬茹 2011 年 5 月 26 日

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#### **Abstract**

George Eliot is almost uncontested as one of the greatest British Victorian women writers. Her works mark the brand-new stage of the development of English critical realism. *The Mill on the Floss*, one of her masterpieces, reveals her superlative talent for dominating language and artistic tension.

This thesis mainly analyzes the language features in the novel in three chapters through adopting an illustrative approach, an inductive method and a deductive way of discussion. Chapter One deals with the language structure which includes the simple diction and parallelism. Chapter Two demonstrates the symbolism. It analyzes the symbolism of some objects such as the mill, the flood, and some characters which includes Maggie, Tom and the Dodsons. Chapter Three focuses on the discourse mode from the perspectives of free direct speech and free indirect speech. With the help of the analysis of the language features, this thesis makes the readers recognize the wonderful writing skills of George Eliot for having a better understanding of the characters and the themes of the great novel that salvation and happiness can be obtained through getting morality education — the pure, innocent for the others.

Key words: language structure symbolism discourse



#### 摘要

毋庸置疑, 乔治·艾略特几乎是没有争议的英国维多利亚时代最伟大的女性作家之一。她的作品标志着英国批判现实主义进入了一个崭新的发展阶段。《弗洛斯河上的磨坊》是她的代表作之一, 集中表现了她非凡的语言和艺术张力。

本论文借助举例法、归纳法和演绎法,通过三个章节的分析探讨了《弗洛斯河上的磨坊》中的语言特色。第一章论述了小说的语言结构。其中包括措词的简洁性和平行性。第二章论述了小说中的象征主义。从事物和人物两个方面探究了小说语言中的象征意义,事物如磨坊、洪水;人物如麦琪、多得逊一家人等。第三章分析了小说语言的话语模式,包括人物的自由直接引语和自由间接引语模式。本论文通过对小说语言特色的研究,使读者更深刻地了解到只有通过道德教育一纯粹地、真诚地帮助他人,人们才能得到拯救和幸福这一主题。

关键字:语言结构 象征意义 话语模式

#### Introduction

George Eliot is the pseudonym of the famous Victorian female novelist Mary Ann Evans, who makes contributions to the development of the English critical realism. George Eliot's works are famous for her profound philosophic thoughts; her fervent concern with ethics, religion and social politics; and her detailed description of the characters' psychology. Her works always focus on the rural life and lower classes, dealing with ethical morality, and sharing the humanitarianism.

George Eliot is always considered to be one of the greatest English women novelists as she has an extraordinary talent and wide mind full of wisdoms. Herbert Spencer comments "George Eliot has remarkable capacity for abstract thinking, which so seldom goes along with capacity for concrete observation even in men; ...among women, such a union of the two as existed in her has never been paralleled." Being a woman writer of abstract thinking and with seemingly anti-traditional life experiences, George Eliot draws a large number of critics and enthusiasts home and abroad to the study of her and of her works.

Elaine Showalter regards George Eliot as a forerunner of women literature. Modem admiration for George Eliot reemerges in John Holloway's *Victorian Sage* (1953), which ranks George Eliot among the major writers. John Holloway admires George Eliot's intellectual and moral seriousness, as well as her learned and oracular discourse. He places her in the company of sages like Thomas Carlyle, Benjamin Disraeli, John Newman, Matthew Arnold, and Thomas Hardy. *The Novel of George Eliot* (1959) by Jerome Thale studies Eliot's seven novels from the perspectives of psychological analysis, structure, social analysis, archetypal criticism, religious and moral analysis, etc. F. R. Leavis's in his *The Great Tradition* (1960) asserts the greatness of the novel form itself and argues for a great British tradition beginning with Jane Austen and proceeding through George Eliot, Henry James, and Joseph Conrad to D. H. Lawrence. He also identifies George Eliot's moral intelligence, which he claims cannot be discounted as Victorian didacticism.

George Eliot is also a prolific woman writer in the nineteenth century England. Her first literary attempt is a translation of *The Living Jesus* by the German theologian David Strauss. Her best works are: *Adam Bede* (1859), *The Mill on the Floss* (1860), *Silas Marner* (1861), *Romola* (1863) and *Middlemarch* (1871 – 1872). *The Mill on the Floss* is the third novel of George Eliot's early fictions, and it is regarded as her masterpiece by some critics, though *Middlemarch* is considered as her masterpiece. It is a semi-autobiographical one and embodies George Eliot's narrative technique and portrayal of characters. Besides, the uses of the words, sentence patterns, dialogues, symbolism and discourse in the novel fully display George Eliot's surpassing writing skills and show her splendid literary values and eternal charms. Her greatness does influence a lot of later writers and attracts many readers.

However, George Eliot suffered a dramatic decline both in her works and fame after her



death, owing to the rising of new romanticism. It is not until the late of 1940's that her fame returned to a new top. In 1948, F. R. Leavis listed her as one of the great novelists in *The Great Tradition* and regarded her "not as transcendently great as Tolstoy, but great, and great in the same way." F. R. Leavis makes a systematic study of the novel and holds that it is the author's emotional idealization of Maggie which endows the novel with both merits and flaws. D. H. Lawrence insists that George Eliot is the beginner of psychological realism and states "it was she [George Eliot] who started putting all the actions inside." George Eliot is also spoken highly of by many other critics.

The 100 Most Influential Women of All Time: A Ranking Past and Present by Deborah G. Felder, published in 2010, says that as a novelist, George Eliot can be regarded as the greatest in the nineteenth century, for her wisdom and the outstanding contribution to the literature. She does more in reforming and improving the writing style of the classical novels than the other contemporary writers as her vigorous stories of men and animals against the environment, and survival against hardships were drawn mainly from her own experiences.

In Artistic Purity and Rhetoric Fiction (2nd Edition) published by University Of Chicago Press, 1983, Wayne C. Booth points out that George Eliot's narrative techniques are the keys to comprehend her novels and greatness. From his theories, it can be shown easily that the narrative techniques play an important role in the study of literature. One of the features which strike the readers most in The Mill on the Floss is constant and obvious presence of the author in the novel. The readers who have really read the works of George Eliot's and her contemporaries' regard her as a skillful storyteller and her instruction has its own traits and functions. Her ability of narration in the various techniques involved of the suspense, the irony and the surprise which make her novel successful.

By 1900, George Eliot's works have already been introduced into China. However, perhaps because George Eliot's works show serious, profound and rational characteristics, which cannot conform to the taste of Chinese, George Eliot's works do not get due attention. She has been unfairly neglected by some Chinese scholars in their writings of the history of English literature, and no one in China has ever written any monograph for a detailed study of her novels either.

But in the twentieth century, the enthusiasm for George Eliot and her novels become more and more heated; especially *The Mill on the Floss* does not recede. After the seventies in the twentieth century, new phenomenon of the study of George Eliot appears. Many critics adopt modem criticisms and try to study her fiction from new angles. Apart from the above perspectives, George Eliot's religion of humanity and high moral principle of duty, her conservative political ideas, individual and community, Feuerbach's focus on the development of a sense of human fellowship, and even the Darwinian idea of the survival of the fittest manifested in her novels are heatedly discussed. For instance, Lin Lin analyzes the attribution of the historical context to Bing Xin's and George Eliot's devious strategy in adopting narrator "I" and presents the two novelists' contradictory views on women's social role which lead to the straying way of the narrator. <sup>6</sup>

Another example is "Understanding Human Nature and Pursuing Harmony" published by



Journal of Zhengzhou University of Technology (Social Science), in January, 2001. Gao Xiaoling says that George Eliot is uncontested as the greatest British Victorian woman writer for her extraordinary creation, the unique philosophical angles and vividly psychoanalysis. Such writing features have influenced many authors, such as Thomas Hardy, Henry James, and Joseph Conrad and so on. In *The Mill on the Floss* through analysis of its characterization and the author's ideas of creation, the omnipresent inner plights through life, the complicated human nature, various personalities determined by the environment, education and heredity, all lead to the author's yearning for understanding and harmony in human relations.

Others pay more attentions to the novel's characterization. "Memory: Continuity of Personality of George Eliot's Characters" by Cui Dong in *Foreign Literature Study* published in April, 2003, points out that memory is the key point in creating characters in George Eliot' novels. He also states that there is a relation between memory and development of characters' personality as memory keeps the past alive and gives a sense of continuity between one's past life and present life. Thus, by retaining this sense of continuity, memory satisfies people's psychological demands for totality of life. Memory is embodied in all George Eliot's novels to some extent in order to represent her creating ideas and the continuity of characters' personality in her novels. In *The Mill on the Floss*, it seems that the disordered incidences have nothing with memory; on the contrary, it is the memory linked the whole story up. George Eliot proves that the memory beyond time in the disorder world is possible.

In addition, "Moral Allegory and Religion Feeling on George Eliot's Novels" by Yuan Xuesheng and Fu Shuqin in *Journal of Nanchang University* published in May, 2005, mainly focuses on analyzing George Eliot's works from perspectives of morality and religion. Duty is a central but increasingly ambiguous idea in the social transformation of Victorian England. George Eliot undertakes the task of redefining the essence of duty as a unifying force of social cohesion, which is one of the major intellectual efforts against the general fear of social dissolution. Her sharp perception of the idea of duty is mainly evident in the major conflicts in her novels, in the struggle and the choice of her characters, and in her use of such related notions as neighbor, home, society and passion. In *The Mill on the Floss*, George Eliot also indicates the principle of duty. Maggie, the heroine in this novel, sacrifices her love with Stephen who is engaged to her cousin Lucy as to take her own responsibility for Philip and her family. Her brother Tom, who is one of the protagonists, drops from school and supports the family as a bread earner in an early age, just for undertaking the duty for his family. Such belief has broken up the traditional Christianism and made a deep impression on the readers.

There are still more different points of views on this novel. "Study on the Popularity of the Classics of George Eliot" in *Journal Wenzhou University* published in July, 2007, Tan Min and Yin Hengguang point out that George Eliot has been ranked among the writers of the classics, but her classic novels have features of popular novel as well. Three reasons can be offered to explain the above points. Firstly, because her novels obtain the materials from the ordinary lives of the middle and lower classes of the society, the popularity feature of popular novels are reflected in her novels. Secondly, since the themes of her novels mainly discuss the topic of love, marriage and family, which stimulate great interests among female readers, secularized

aesthetic character of popular novels is expressed. Thirdly, popular novels' stereotype feature can be observed in the using cultural mode and plot mode in her novels. *The Mill on the Floss*, for instance, is such a kind of novel. Maggie Tulliver, the heroine in this novel, comes from a relatively well-off family. Yearning for love, she suffers a lot in a male-dominated society. This novel indicates the common people's pursuits of love and happiness which attracts great many readers.

Some scholars show more focuses on the analysis of psychology. In "A Psychoanalytic Interpretation of *The Mill on the Floss*" in *The Border Economy and Culture* published in August, 2010, Liu Ying maintains that *The Mill on the Floss* is a novel that tackles the complexities of morality versus desire and convinces the analysis of a woman's psychology. According to Freudian theory on psychoanalysis, Maggie has tormented battles between her inner heart and society which propels her from one crisis to another. There appeared a group of excellent women novelists in the British literature of the nineteenth century, such as Charlotte Bronte, Emily Bronte, Mrs. Gaskell and George Eliot. Among them, George Eliot is listed by the contemporary English critic F. R. Leavis as one of the four great English novelists for her serious discussion of morality and her broad mind towards human experience.

Although numerous researches have been done, there are still some research areas need further study Her novels, from the above analysis, are studied either in terms of form such as narrative strategies or in terms of content such as theme, feminism, religious, and moral codes, but lack of complete and thorough discussions on the analysis of the language features of *The Mill on the Floss*. So this thesis casts some new lights on the language features in three parts, the language structure, which revealing George Eliot's simplicity and power; symbolism, which embodies George Eliot's religious thoughts ethical views; and discourse, which fully shows George Eliot's talent in characterization and excavating characters' psychology.

### **Chapter One Language Structure**

In *The Mill on the Floss*, the portrayal of common characters and the description of environment are revealed by George Eliot skillfully to the readers with simple language showing the themes of feminism and home. This chapter discusses George Eliot's language structure from two aspects: simple diction and parallelism.

#### 1. 1 Simple diction

A common meaning of "diction" is more precisely expressed with the word enunciation — the art of speaking clearly so that each word is clearly heard and understood to its fullest complexity and extremity. But diction in its original and primary meaning refers to the writer's or the speaker's distinctive vocabulary choice and the style of expression in a poem or story. This sense concerns word choice and style, rather than pronunciation and tone. Simple diction stands for using simple words, phrases or sentences to express deep meanings.

George Eliot's diction has neither Shakespeare's magnificence, nor Mark Twain's humor, but simplicity and power. Especially in *The Mill on the Floss*, George Eliot highlights seven