

《红色英勇勋章》中的 象征意象分析

王晓俊◎著

On Symbolic Imagery in *The Red Badge of Courage*



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一件艺术品只有在领略它的人除了他看到、听见或理解的以外不能设想任何别的东西的条件下才是真正的艺术品。领略它的人有一种类似回忆的感觉——似曾相识，接触过多次，早就知道，只是说不出，而现在别人已经向他说出来了。

——列夫·托尔斯泰《艺术论》（陈馥，译，2000：348）

序

梅德明

我收王晓俊为门下弟子已有五年有余,随着和她逐步深入的接触,对她有了更多的了解。

王晓俊的主要教学工作之一是大学英语教学。旁人看来,这只是一项课时多而枯燥的教书生活。而她不仅把语言学和二语习得作为主要研究方向,并能够深入研究文学领域,切实把人文素养的全面培养做得扎扎实实。本书是她继《中国本土化隐喻认知观初探》之后,在文学领域里呈献给读者的又一部力作。

读了本书书稿之后,给我印象最深的,同时也是与以往文学评论的内容有所不同的是,作者并非拘泥于前人研究,而是穿针引线地导出文学理论的关键点,从《红色英勇勋章》中的象征意象出发,找出自然主义思想和象征主义创作手法的完美结合实例,深刻剖析在冷漠的自然环境中人的无足轻重,以及对战争世界的混乱无序、血腥残忍的深入分析,取得了颇好的效果。这是一部颇为成功的研究著作。

晓俊的研究背景是英语教学和语言学,从我攻读语言学和二语习得研究,被“迫”阅读大量文学方面的中英文文献,所遇到的困难和挑战是可以想见的。她在文学领域的这一突破,也昭示着她学术视野的开拓与研究功力的升华。我深深为她庆幸,也为她祝福,祈望她今后取得更大的成绩。

由于这一研究只是她在文学领域中迈出的第一步,其不足之处也是在所难免的。尽管洋洋洒洒挥笔数十万字,还只能说是浅尝一脔。今后的持续研究还有很多需要做的工作。这也期待于她今后的更加努力了。

是为序。

2014 年夏至于上海寓中

Preface

Stephen Crane (November 1, 1871 - June 5, 1900) was an outstanding American novelist, poet, and journalist. He achieved great success in his literary works during his brief career. Most of his works are attached with great thoughts and artistic merits, such as the novels *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* and *The Red Badge of Courage*, short stories "The Open Boat", "The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky" and "The Blue Hotel" and the poetry collection *The Black Riders, and Other Lines* and so on.

Crane's most well-known work, *The Red Badge*, is commonly believed to be the first great novel of the American Civil War, largely because of its vivid and detailed description of the experience of warfare.

In *The Red Badge of Courage*, Crane follows the naturalistic conception. Crane insists in this novel that we live in a vast and indifferent universe, in which human beings are deprived of free will and expects no help from any place. However, Crane does not use the traditional way to convey his naturalistic conception in *The Red Badge*, instead he borrows symbolic techniques, which is shown by the abundant symbolic imagery in the novel. The artistic merit in the novel is believed to be Crane's skillful use of symbolic imagery, which draws great attention from a lot of critics. Some critics think that symbolic imagery is integral to the novel in that *The Red Badge* is

a symbolic novel. Others claim that imagery in the novel is quite impressionistic. The present book tries to make a thorough analysis on the use of symbolic imagery in this novel.

The book consists of three parts of argumentation. Part one is a brief introduction of naturalism theory and its strong influence upon Stephen Crane's literary conception. Part two seeks to explore the origin of Crane's use of symbolic techniques in his major literary works, and makes a systematic analysis of the contradiction between naturalism and symbolism, and a possible union of the two in the same work. Part three is a detailed discussion of Crane's skillful union of naturalistic conception with symbolic imagery in *The Red Badge*. In this part, the present author divides the symbolic imagery in the novel into three categories, based on the naturalistic conception they convey respectively. Firstly, images of natural setting symbolize the universe's disregard for human life. Secondly, images of color, animal and machine convey Crane's thoughts of war; war is full of chaos, brutality, and confusion, without any romantic elements or heroism. And thirdly, figure images symbolize that human life is insignificant in an indifferent universe.

After the thorough analysis of Crane's skillful union of his naturalistic conception with symbolic imagery in *The Red Badge*, the present author concludes that, unlike other naturalists of his time, Stephen Crane applies symbolic imagery in this novel, and successfully conveys his objective view of the universe, the war and the human life. Therefore *The Red Badge* is a great novel, not only for its thought-provoking theme, but more importantly, for its abundant symbolic imagery. Crane successfully makes a union of his naturalistic conception with symbolic imagery in the novel, thus contributing a

real monumental work in the American literary history. Such a perfect union of symbolic imagery and naturalistic conception in one novel distinguishes him as a forerunner of modernistic writers.

Wang Xiaojun

Jun. 1st, 2014

前 言

斯蒂芬·克莱恩(Stephen Crane, 1871. 11. 1 - 1900. 6. 5)是美国19世纪后期著名小说家和诗人。其短暂的一生为美国文学的发展做出了卓越的贡献。1893年,他完成了第一部小说《街头女郎玛吉》(*Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*)。在这部小说中,克莱恩运用自然主义的手法描述了纽约下层人民的生活。1895年,克莱恩发表了描写美国内战的小说《红色英勇勋章》(*The Red Badge of Courage*)。这部小说一发表就引起了评论界的关注,受到欧美各国文学评论家的好评。1898年,克莱恩根据亲身经历写出了著名的短篇小说《海上扁舟》(*The Open Boat*)。小说描写了四个人面对大自然对他们命运的冷漠无情,感到束手无策,只能听天由命。并描写了他们由此而产生的恐惧和绝望等心理。1900年,克莱恩在德国患肺病逝世,年仅28岁。他的文学生涯虽然短暂,但却留给了广大读者和评论家许多脍炙人口的作品,其中受到评价最高的是他23岁时所写的小说《红色英勇勋章》。本书着重探讨克莱恩在这部作品中运用丰富的象征意象所表达的深邃的自然主义文学思想。

1895年出版的《红色英勇勋章》是克莱恩艺术巅峰之作,获得英美文学界的一致好评。其卓越的艺术成就体现在遍布全文的各种象征意象上。这些象征意象引起了评论界的关注。有的评论立足于克莱恩是一位象征主义作家,他的《红色英勇勋章》是一部象征主义作品,去剖析其中的各种象征意象。有的评论关注作品中的象征意象,是把它们和印象主义联系在一起的,并以此来说明克

莱恩是一位印象主义作家。他们只是孤立地去谈象征主义这一写作风格,而没有过多涉及这些象征意象所表现的作者深层次的自然主义文学思想。如何分类、解读和分析这些象征意象是本书详细解决的问题。本书通过深入分析这些象征意象,认为克莱恩作为一位自然主义作家,在《红色英勇勋章》中完美结合了其自然主义思想和象征主义创作手法。他借助于丰富的象征意象,真实、客观地传达了在冷漠的自然环境中人的无足轻重,以及战争世界的混乱无序、血腥残忍等自然主义思想。

本书共分三章。第一章简要介绍了影响克莱恩文学创作的自然主义思想,并简要回顾其自然主义思想在主要作品中的具体体现。第二章剖析了影响克莱恩象征主义写作手法的深层次的社会、历史和文化原因,并简要概括了自然主义和象征主义这两种本来相悖的方式是如何在一些著名作家的文学作品中成功融合的。第三章详细分析了克莱恩的自然主义思想和象征主义意象在《红色英勇勋章》中的成功融合。本书将该作品中的象征意象分成三类,并详细分析它们所传达的自然主义思想:①各种自然场景的意象象征着大自然在人类的战争和苦难面前像一台无情的机器,无动于衷。②各种颜色意象、动物意象以及机器意象传达了克莱恩的自然主义战争观:战争是混乱无序和血腥残忍的。③无名无姓的人物意象,以及他们在冷漠的自然环境和混乱无序的战争中所表现出的束手无策,听天由命以及孤独等心理,都象征着人的无足轻重,以至于作品中的人物好像棋盘上的棋子一样受人支配。

通过对《红色英勇勋章》中各种象征意象的详细分析,作者认为语言只是交际的工具、思维的外壳。任何技巧和创作手法都是为表达思想观点服务的。《红色英勇勋章》这部作品中所蕴涵的作者的 自然主义思想,正是通过丰富的象征意象得以充分展示与体现的。如今,这部作品被视为美国文学史上的一部经典佳作,是因为它以高度娴熟的艺术技巧表达了深邃的思想内涵,成为两者

和谐统一和完美结合的典范。

本书新鲜有趣,阐述深入浅出,从而使抽象的文学理论分析读来轻松。研究文学的学者和注重人文素养教学的教师都可从中得益匪浅。

作 者

2014 年 6 月

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梅德明

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Introduction

0.1 The Author

Stephen Crane (1871 – 1900), one of the most important writers in American literature, achieved great literary success during his brief life. And he is a distinguished American novelist, short story writer, poet and journalist. Prolific throughout his short life, he wrote notable works in the Realist tradition as well as early examples of American Naturalism and Impressionism. Most of his works are attached with deep thoughts and great artistic merits, such as the novels *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* and *The Red Badge of Courage*, short stories “The Open Boat”, “The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky” and “The Blue Hotel”, and the poetry collection *The Black Riders, and Other Lines*. It is the tragic short lifespan and his unique philosophy in writing that make Crane pretty dim to all of us. He is generally recognized by modern critics as one of the most innovative writers of his generation.

Crane was born on November 1, 1871, in Newark, New Jersey. He was the youngest of fourteen children of a Methodist minister. As a child, Crane showed prodigy in mind. He is raised in several New Jersey towns and Port Jervis, New York. He lived a poor and mobile life on his mother's poor income by writing articles for a religion paper after the death of his father in 1880. Crane often had a sense of loss because he could not own the love and happiness of a child in a

wholesome family does. He found that his parents' religion was irrelevant to the hard life he experienced. Having little interest in university studies, he dropped out of college in 1891 and began to work as a journalist and writer. Having gone overnight from penniless hack journalist to literary celebrity, Crane watched the rest of his brief life play out as a sort of gaudy melodrama, a series of variations on the theme of the candle burned at both ends. Pulled in all directions by his celebrity status, his ambition, and his youth, Crane struggles with scandal, several passionate and overlapping, romantic attachments, and malicious rumors that he is a drug addict and a Satanist. His life is also always with the problem of money. He develops a kind of rebellion spirit and harbors a strong desire of self-realization which constitutes the source of his innovative writing career. Keith Gandal comments that Crane's rebellion is significant because he is a man who embodies something of the spirit and conflict of his times (Gandal, 1997:506). Crane really achieves his self-realization in his whole life not only in literature but in his philosophy.

However, later when he went to college-first Lafayette, then Syracuse University, he did not prove to be a good student. During his college life, Crane showed great enthusiasm for baseball. But he failed to realize his dream to be a catcher with the New York Giants. Anyhow "the psychology in the game of baseball helped him to imagine scenes and moods of his *The Red Badge of Courage*" (Weatherford, 1973: 109).

After he left college, Crane went to New York, with the determination to be a writer. He began writing at the age of 4 and had published several articles by the age of 16. At the time of his death, Crane had become an important figure in American literature. He was

nearly forgotten, however, until two decades later when critics revive interest in his life and work. So he wanted to make achievements in something that would bring him public fame, just like what Henry Fleming did in *The Red Badge*. Stylistically, Crane's writing is characterized by descriptive vividness and intensity, as well as distinctive dialects and irony. Common themes of his writing involve fear, spiritual crisis and social isolation. When working as a reporter for both the *New York Herald* and the *New York Tribune*, he wandered through the Bowery slums, where he found inspiration for his novel, *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*. But Crane was forced to pay to have it printed under the pseudonym Johnston Smith because of his true-to-life description of poverty and immorality in the novel. Such a subject was not well-received during that time. As a result, only twelve copies were sold. However, it did attract the attention of some famous critics and writers, like William Dean Howells, who thought well of it and promoted Crane's writing career. And Richard M. Weatherford said that the novel was the first naturalistic novel written by an American (Weatherford, 1973: 59). At the same time he came up with a more popular subject and applied it in *The Red Badge of Courage*, which appeared as book in 1895. The book became famous overnight in England as well as the United States. In the novel, Crane translated his driving ambition to be a baseball star into a youth's urge to join a regiment, and his desire for a red badge of courage, which symbolized a great success in war. The youth experienced fear, isolation and confusion when seeking to become a hero.

In 1897, Crane went to live in Surrey, England because his choice of a life companion, who was once the proprietress of a brothel, and his notoriously unorthodox way of living incurred