

The Subversion and Transcendence of Traditional Lyrics Aesthetics by Modern Popular Songs

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Abstract: *Modern popular songs have become one of the most influential cultural products for the people today, with various characteristics such as great influence, wide audience, and diverse means of dissemination. Lyrics, as the backbone of popular songs, can be regarded as a form of musical literature in terms of their nature. They contain both literary elements in music and musical attributes in literature. On the basis of inheriting the unique aesthetic artistic characteristics of ancient Chinese poetry, the lyrics of domestic popular songs also integrate modern elements of the times, forming a unique new poetic style. Compared with traditional songs, the lyrics structure of modern popular songs has undergone significant changes, with a subversion of grammatical norms and a reshaping of classical imagery, showcasing the unique aesthetic and cultural connotations of modern music.*

Keywords: Modern popular songs, Traditional lyric aesthetics, Subversion, Surpass.

1. Introduction

Pop songs are also known as popular songs, mainly because their themes are mostly about modern and real life, which is more relevant to the daily life of the audience. The organic combination of lyrics and melody forms a lively, rhythmic, and wide range art form. The lyrics of modern popular songs, on the other hand, are a literary style presented to the people through language as material material. They are an art form similar to poetry, prose, and novels. The lyrics are generally short in length and combined with the melody to create music that can express the atmosphere and mood. They have their unique narrative style and aesthetic perspective, and can become a true reflection of people's spiritual outlook, cultural mentality, and survival status over a period of time, just like poetry, fiction, and prose.

2. Beyond Grammatical Norms

Modern popular songs have a profound impact on people's lives, and have become an indispensable spiritual food for people. They have a direct or indirect influence on people's thoughts, behavior, emotions, and social trends. With the development of the times, language expression has gradually broken the conventional grammar rules. There are significant differences in grammatical structure between poetry, prose, and novels. Prose and novels still use more conventional voice, and what attracts readers is their content and plot; And poetry is a playful and appreciative art, so poets often do not adhere to any particular style when creating poetry, using imagery to create artistic conception and express the emotions in the poet's heart.

As a form of art, lyrics are not only created for unique aesthetic features, but also embody the creator's deep emotions. The reason why modern popular songs have such a profound impact on people is not only due to the aesthetic characteristics of the music itself, but also because the emotions contained in the music resonate with the audience, giving them a sense of emotion and emotional outlet. For example, in the modern popular song "Resting Heart", there is a lyric that goes: "I used to think my family was like ticket stubs, torn open and embarked on a journey, thrown into

another stranger." The clever use of the lyrics by the lyricist is that "stranger" was originally an adjective, but it was placed after the quantifier "one," naturally turning "stranger" into a noun, which is a subversion of conventional grammar. Looking at the lyrics of the song "Holding Hands" again: "So sad is your sadness/happy is your happiness", the two "sadness" and "happiness" have different parts of speech. In modern Chinese, "sadness" and "happiness" are intransitive verbs, while the first "sadness" and "happiness" are transitive verbs, which are actions performed by "I", and the second "sadness" and "happiness" are nouns. However, if translated using conventional grammar, it is actually a causal relationship. Because you are sad, I am also sad, and because you are happy, I am also happy. From the change in its part of speech, it can be seen that the transcendence of grammatical norms in modern popular song lyrics is a concrete manifestation of its aesthetic variation.

There are significant differences between the language and artistic style of modern popular song lyrics and the aesthetics of traditional lyrics, mainly reflected in the transcendence of grammar norms and the subversion of conventional grammar norms in modern popular song lyrics. The lyrics of modern popular songs bring us a brand new aesthetic enjoyment, and we should give them certain recognition. However, no matter how you go beyond and subvert grammar norms, it is necessary to make the audience understand the meaning you want to express, otherwise the so-called surpassing and subverting will only become a joke.

3. Rebellion Against Strict Sentence Structures

Since ancient times, China has placed great emphasis on neatness and rhyme in word and sentence construction, which is also a unique aesthetic feature of ancient Chinese language. The lyrics of modern popular songs are not limited to one style, and they are also more flexible and freer. The sentences are long and short, and the combination of length and melody can create rhythmic music. As written in "Her Eyelashes": "Her pink and delicate appearance is like a juicy peach/Everyone wants to bite/Her bright lips have a confident pride/I can see it. At first glance, it appears that the sentence structure is also very neat, but upon closer inspection, one or three sentences are too long to catch one's breath, while two

or four sentences are too short to slow down for a moment. This combination of length and brevity creates a distinct sense of rhythm. The long sentences of one or three sentences make people feel delicate and can enrich the emotions that the music itself wants to express; 2、The short sentences of four or two sentences are easy and clear, giving people a strange aesthetic feeling.

Although modern popular song lyrics rebel against the strict sentence structure of traditional lyrics, it does not mean that such strict sentence structures are not beautiful. In the lyrics of modern popular songs, there are also very neat lines, such as Jay Chou's "Fireworks Are Easy to Cold": "The rain falls one after another, and the old hometown is deep with trees and grass. I have heard that you are always alone, with mottled city gates and old tree roots, echoing on the stone slabs. Wait; the rain falls one after another, and the old hometown is deep with trees and grass. I have heard that you still guard the lonely city, with the sound of pastoral flutes on the outskirts of the city, falling on that Nomura. Fate has taken root, and we are together." The first and last two sentences are repeated, and the sentence structure and word count are exactly the same, and the sentence structure is also very neat. What we emphasize is that the aesthetic characteristics presented in the lyrics of modern popular songs are no longer strict in sentence structure requirements, but freer and more flexible, and the scope of creation is broader.

4. Disruption of Rhythm

Lyrics are a part of a song, so when we talk about lyrics, we cannot ignore the song. Therefore, lyricists also need to consider whether it is suitable for composers to compose music when writing lyrics. For the audience, a song is an auditory art that requires lyrics to rhyme or flow smoothly. Mr. Guo Moruo once said, "Poetry can have rhyme or no rhyme, but songs must have rhyme." Indeed, lyrics with rhyme can better integrate with music and have more musicality. The main aesthetic aspect of traditional lyrics is the beauty of music, which stems from the strict sentence structure and rhyme of traditional lyrics. From this line in "The Great Wall Ballad", it can be seen that "the Great Wall is thousands of miles long, and outside the Great Wall is my hometown. Sorghum is plump and fragrant, and gold is abundant with few disasters. Since the beginning of the great disaster, rape, abduction, and suffering have been unbearable. Hardship should run in all directions, and parents should be separated and lost." There are a total of eight lines, except for the "qi" at the end of the fifth line, each sentence in the other seven lines has a "ang" rhyme at the end, and the neatness and rhythm of the sentence structure can be compared to the seven character regulated poetry of the Tang Dynasty, giving people a feeling of lightness and lightness.

Although the lyrics of modern popular songs have not abandoned the beauty of rhythm, they do not deliberately rhyme according to the rules in their lyrics. Instead, they are presented in prose or similar poetic styles, reflecting the aesthetic diversity of the lyrics. As Leslie Cheung wrote in "The Wind Continues to Blow": "How many happy memories of the past, why not pursue them with you? I want to wash away the melancholy and pain. I am willing to remember the tenderness and sweetness, and endure the thunder of

separation, not allowing it to droop. Sorrow is like a lock, eyebrows gather, and tears of separation will always droop." It is not difficult to see that this passage has no rhyme at all, and the whole song actually has no rhyme at all. For example, in Andy Lau's "Thank You for Your Love," he wrote: "When I avoid your tenderness, tears begin to fall. I dare not but want to thank you for your love. It is necessary to exist. In your future, the most feared thing is that this will bring you eternal harm." This passage is also rhyming and presents a person's inner monologue in the form of prose, fully reflecting the free style of prose format.

There are too many modern pop songs that do not emphasize rhyme, because lyricists did not consider pursuing rhyme when writing lyrics. This does not mean that they gave up on the beauty of rhythm from the beginning, but rather that they tried to find more ways to pursue it, such as in a relaxed and cheerful prose style. Besides 'The Wind Continues to Blow' and 'Thank You for Love', there are countless modern songs that do not rhyme. However, this does not mean that there are no rhymes in modern songs. For example, in "Taste," it is written: "I thought sadness could be rare, I thought I could live well, but who knew that when I think of you, I miss bitter medicine, nowhere to escape, I miss your smile, I miss your coat, I miss your white socks and the scent on you." Except for the "you" at the end of the third line, all other lines end with the rhyme "ao". Similarly, traditional lyrics are not always rhymed, such as the "Quotations from Chairman Mao" and "The Great Sword Slashes the Heads of the Demons" from the extraordinary period. So, the disruption of rhythm in modern song lyrics that we emphasize does not refer to an absolute boundary, but rather to the significant differences in rhythm between modern song lyrics and traditional lyrics. The true meaning of the subversion we want to emphasize is that today's lyric creation should present a more "diversified" and "liberalized" trend, rather than being troubled by deliberate pursuit of rhyme.

5. The Creation of Classical Artistic Conception

Whether it is traditional lyrics or modern song lyrics, lyricists basically write lyrics based on real stories of daily life, while contemporary people describe their lives and express their emotions. However, in recent years, there has been a continuous emergence of lyrics that lean towards classical music. Lyricists are devoted to ancient culture and write their own gains into lyrics, creating a classical atmosphere, mood, and sentiment in the lyrics, ultimately forming music with unique classical beauty, which can be said to be unique in modern popular songs. And these types of lyricists mainly include Fang Wenshan from Taiwan, Mo Mingmiao from the internet, and Chen Xiaohui from mainland China.

Many people believe that history has entered the 21st century, and the creation of modern popular songs should be further aligned with the world, full of fashion and trend. Why are there still people who are obsessed with ancient culture? This is mainly due to people's increasing emphasis on traditional culture, which is a precious asset bestowed upon each of us by our nation and history. We should learn to cherish it. And people inevitably have a nostalgic feeling towards the past, lamenting the passing of time and the beauty of the past. In

this situation, modern pop songs full of classical imagery have emerged. And these songs mainly include “Blue and White Porcelain”, “East Wind Breaks”, “Inch of Thread”, “Mountains and Rivers Forever Admire”, “The Sound of Waves Still Remains” and so on. Please see “Inch of Thread”: “Let this weak water be thrown back into the river, and after returning to the sea, may the hospitality not be old? From then on, I love spring rain, summer thunder, autumn frost, winter snow without need. I declare it to my mouth, and my breath is like gazing into your eyes. How to restrain the wind and trek through the mountains, forests, and gardens, how to organize the obsession to take root at the end of my dream? When you wake up from your dream and climb the tall building alone, there is also a night wind blowing through my sleeves at my railing, and the eaves water penetrates the wall. Even the slightest itch has been carved into wounds for years. The long night is not yet in the center, and my blind eyes are inclined to look at the distant light. I am full of sadness and anxiety, and joy also adds three parts of madness. I implore you to look back Just treat it as the most ordinary moment of admiration, someone has worn out all their makeup and gone crazy for you, dedicating their spare time to create a deep and endless love. At least they have the courage to be influenced by anger and ignorance. Imagine the cycle of reincarnation, the world of red dust, the green silk, white bones, and yellow springs, where everything will never stop. All three souls and seven souls will be extremely gentle because of you Climbing high-rise buildings, leaning on railings, reincarnation, worldly affairs, green silk, yellow springs, white bones, three souls and seven spirits, and other highly classical imagery, suddenly seem to show us the endless helplessness and grief in the hearts of a couple who love but cannot hold hands and grow old. Both the lyrics and the melody leave an endless classical aesthetic impression on people.

6. Conclusion

With the rapid development of the economy, people's lifestyles and aesthetic concepts are undergoing tremendous changes. In the field of music, this is reflected in the significant changes in the lyrics of modern popular songs, which have unprecedentedly subverted and surpassed traditional lyrics aesthetics. We in academia should raise our awareness and increase our research efforts, making our due contributions to the development and prosperity of Chinese pop songs, and to the globalization of Chinese culture.

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