

A Study of Black American Literature Appreciation Strategies from the Perspective of Literary Criticism Theory

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Abstract: In order to better study black literature, this paper studies the measurement of black literature appreciation in the United States based on literary criticism theory. Firstly, the function and characteristics of literary criticism theory are analyzed, and it is effectively applied to black literature appreciation according to its functional characteristics. This paper studies the characteristics of black literary works and the influencing factors of their writing, and then criticizes and appreciates them according to the research results. Finally, we can realize the effective appreciation of black American literature. Finally, the experiment proves that the strategies of black American Literature Appreciation under the literary criticism theory have higher support than the traditional methods.

Keywords: Literary criticism theory; Black literature; Literary appreciation

1. Introduction

The appreciation strategies of black literary criticism mainly focus on racial discrimination and gender discrimination, and are used by scholars in various countries for local research. Black literary criticism is of practical significance to any place where male intellectual hegemony and racial superiority exist[1]. Black literary criticism from the marginal groups of hegemonic countries embodies the idea of anti-hegemony, striving for justice and justice, which obviously inspires people all over the world who have the same pursuit. Black literary criticism also has certain reference significance to Chinese literary criticism. The study of literary criticism is in the ascendant in Chinese academic circles, but the study of black literary criticism is relatively weak[2]. However, criticism does not represent the views of all women and does not cover the experiences of women of all races and regions[3]. Therefore, in order to grasp the overall situation more accurately, we should also pay attention to the situation of those groups that have not been paid attention to by Western critics. In this context, this paper attempts to conduct a holistic and systematic study of black literary criticism with literary criticism as a reference frame. In the context of post-modern theory, which emphasizes difference, the study of black literary criticism in this paper is an attempt to study the difference under the unification. This kind of research is not only concerned about the vulnerable groups in the marginal areas, but also hopes to extend this concern to the whole women and even to the whole mankind, and to promote the ethical responsibility of race to the level of promoting the

meaning of life, which is also suitable for the current cultural background of global integration and pluralism coexistence[4]. This paper makes a textual survey of the latest information at home and abroad, combs the black American literary criticism systematically with the theoretical weapons of comprehensive use, post-modernism and post-colonialism, and holds that black literary criticism is an important way to construct oneself in the field of black culture.

2. Appreciation Strategies of Black American Literature based on Literary Criticism Theory

2.1. Literary functional characteristics of literary criticism theory

Literary criticism is the discovery of aesthetic appreciation of works, the grasp of literary trends and the timely summary of the creative tendency of the times. It is an important manifestation of the aesthetic ability of the subject of criticism based on the scale of value. The function of criticism can often guide the direction of new literary and artistic styles, thus arousing people's desire to explore unknown or confused literary phenomena. Criticism should always serve a certain purpose. In a word, the purpose is to explain the works of art and cultivate aesthetic sense[5]. That is to say, the function of literary criticism has two main connotations: one is the direction of creation, the other is the direction of readers. The former, by explaining the works, summing up the creative experience and summarizing the creative rules, helps writers to correctly understand their thoughts and creative

level, promote their strengths and avoid weaknesses, and then promote the prosperity and development of literary creation; the latter, through the analysis and evaluation of works, guides readers' value orientation and reading methods, and improves readers' appreciation level. To culti-

vate the reader's aesthetic interest is also conducive to giving full play to the positive social functions of literary works. The concrete steps of literary criticism are as follows:

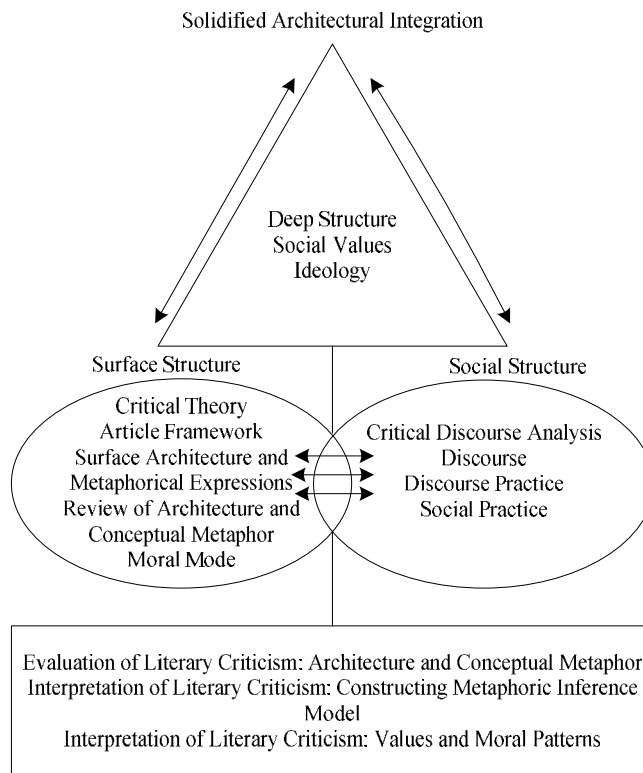


Figure 1. Literary criticism step structure

Literary identification, interpretation and interpretation are the basic functions of literary criticism. It can be said that most of the critical articles are to interpret the connotation of the works and to evaluate the author's creative techniques and artistic characteristics[6]. In his analysis of literary criticism as distinct from the study of literary history, Wellek once pointed out that the critics were faced with works of permanent value. A literary researcher could examine the object of literary criticism, that is, the work itself. He must understand the work and interpret and evaluate it initially.

2.1.1 The evaluation of literary criticism

The function of evaluation is that literary criticism can judge the function, value and significance of a work. The evaluation function of criticism involves judging the value of works, so it must be based on the principle of fairness, and the real criticism should be non-tendentious. But at the same time, the evaluation function of criticism must be based on context. Critics without standpoints do not exist. They can only maintain relative objectivity and calmness, and comprehensively consider the artistic

charm and value of works. It can be seen that the evaluation function of literary criticism should be objective, fair and realistic. Only by seeking a balance between the contextual basis and the principle of fairness can critics interpret the value of works objectively and rationally[7]. Therefore, literary criticism should have a rational spirit of reflection. It is necessary to study the overall structure of the work, not just the literature, image, theme and other elements of the work, which requires the critics to look down on the work from a certain height, and then explore its potential value. Therefore, in this sense, the evaluation function of literary criticism is a re-creation of value, the exploration and development of the deep-seated value behind literary works, and the broadening and enlargement of the meaning of text from the height of culturalogy. The evaluation function of literary criticism should be objective, fair and realistic. Only by seeking a balance between the contextual basis and the principle of fairness can critics interpret the value of works objectively and rationally[8]. Therefore, literary criticism should have a rational spirit of reflection. It is necessary to study the overall structure of the work, not just the literature, image,

theme and other elements of the work, which requires the critics to look down on the work from a certain height, and then explore its potential value.

2.1.2. Interpretation of literary criticism

Interpretation function is the basic function of literary criticism. Interpretation is the interpretation of literary works by criticism. But in the practice of criticism, if a critic is satisfied with expressing what he wants, such as whether a work is good or bad, whether it is touching, etc., it can not constitute real literary criticism. True criticism requires critics to explore the meaning and value of works, elucidate the artistic techniques and literary features of works, and distinguish the artistic features of works and their status and achievements in literary history. Therefore, the explanatory function of literary criticism has two main points[9]. One of the main points is that literary criticism is the link between the four elements of literature. According to Abrams, literature consists of four elements: writers, works, readers and the world. Among them, critics stand on the context of criticism (the world) and explain the relationship between other elements of literature. The second key point is that literary criticism is an interpretation of the meaning of literary texts. With the help of criticism, the meaning of the text can be highlighted and its meaning can be revealed. Therefore, the critics can clearly explain the value of the works that the general readers fail to discover by explaining the meaning contained in the works, including the exploration of the artistic tendency, artistic means and artistic value of the works.

At the same time, we should also pay attention to the diversity of literary criticism. With the changes of the times, the context of criticism will also change, and the critical interpretations made by critics will be different. As some scholars have said, Searching for literary meaning in works is not like extracting some rare element from ore after all. In theory, it is not easy to assume that there is a pure and pure meaning in a work, and how to strip it out. So we can know that the abstraction and interpretation of the meaning of the work is very complex and difficult. Especially in the pluralistic context of criticism, the interpretative function of literary criticism has become more prominent[10]. Critics are not satisfied with the simple explanation of works. He hopes to produce the meaning of literary criticism through interpretation. This production not only digs out a pre-existing connotation, but also includes how critics use literary discourse to produce meaning. Cheng's background contains a cultural standpoint and strategy at present. Therefore, contemporary literary criticism not only interprets literary texts and phenomena, but also analyses literary forms and extensions. This orientation means the efforts of critics to construct their theories by criticism. Therefore, the interpretative function of criticism is not limited

to the content of the text, but also refers to itself as a meaningful form.

2.1.3. Interpretation of literary recognition

The interpretation of literary identification in literary criticism includes two aspects: the normative function and the guiding function, that is, to regulate and guide the current situation of literary criticism and to criticize the operation through value judgment. From the point of view of the relationship between criticism and society, critics express specific value appeals and literary ideals through the analysis of works and writers. Such appeals and ideals will have a direct or indirect impact on society, because criticism must be rooted in certain value standpoints, social concepts and literary ideas, and criticize the powerful weapon that once enlightened intellectuals through literary works. Comments can stimulate new forms of literature and art, construct new critical theories, and even lead and enlighten the development of social culture.

2.2. A study of the characteristics of black American literature

Due to special social and historical reasons such as racial prejudice, racial discrimination and racial oppression, American minority literature has long been on the edge of American culture and social life. American minority writers struggle to make their voices heard and accepted by the mainstream society and readers. After the Second World War, the status of American minority literature has changed fundamentally with the rise of the political rights movement of American minorities and the trend of multiculturalism in the United States. Today, after a long wait and effort, American ethnic literature has broken the boundary between the edge and the center, and gradually integrated into the overall framework of American literature and culture. This once marginal area is now sparkling with stars and forms a unique landscape of American literature. Since the beginning of the 20th century, famous black writers and excellent black literary works have emerged in American literary circles. On this basis, the theory of black literary criticism has also developed, and is gradually moving from the edge to the center, becoming one of the most important schools of literary criticism theory in the United States today. The real formation and initial scale of African American literary criticism was in the early 20th century, marked by the emergence of a series of black literary criticism journals. New York-based black political and cultural organizations and their publications, such as the National Council for the Promotion of Colored People's Crisis, the National Urban Alliance's Opportunity, the Messenger and the Black World, are all committed to the development of black literature and art. These publications have played an important role in expanding the influence of black literary

works and promoting the development of black literary criticism. Because of the dual cultural identity of black Americans in the British colonies of North America, only by connecting their attitudes towards the dual cultural heritage of Africa and Europe, their attitudes towards

their oral and written heritage, and the tension between them, can we make a meaningful evaluation of the tradition of black American literature. This paper summarizes the influencing factors of black American literature, which are as follows:

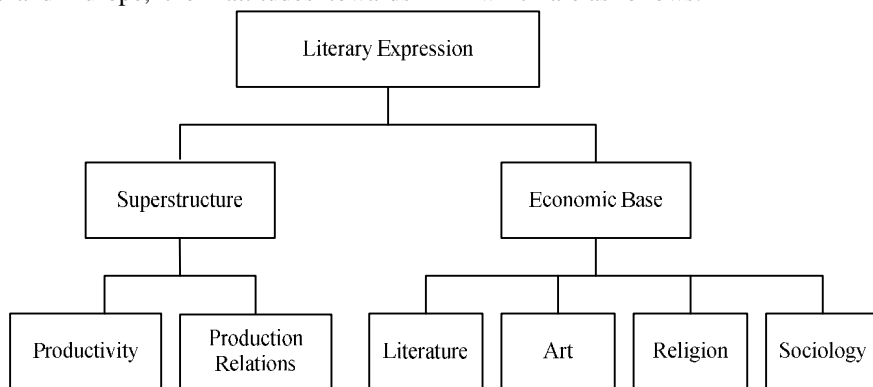


Figure 2. Influencing factors of african-american literary works

Human nature in black literature is closely related to the unique historical tradition and identity of black Americans. Black Americans are the only people forced to come to the New World. They are facing multiple dilemmas such as identity in this heterogeneous world. Their inner world is loaded with heavy double consciousness. Social ambivalence. Black Americans are painfully hovering between their African and American cultures. Cultural identity has always been a rather sensitive issue plaguing black Americans. As the famous black scholar and spiritual leader Du Bois said in his classic book *The Soul of the Black*, black Americans feel their duality all the time: they are both Americans and blacks. There are two souls and two thoughts in his mind. They struggle with each other. It is difficult to reconcile two hostile ideals in a black body. Only by their tenacious strength can they not be torn apart and burst out completely. But black writers sometimes have to use the mainstream Western language to create standard literature. In order to maintain the national characteristics of the works and subvert the discourse hegemony of the white people, they must create works with black cultural characteristics in order to preserve the characteristics of

the black people. Through the efforts of generations, black writers created literary works with rich black culture, broadened the reading space of the text, and excavated the deep meaning of the text. It is the double consciousness and contradictory psychology of black Americans that give the double voice of black American texts. Black people's double voice is closely related to black folklore and folktale, which is mainly embodied in the literary expressiveness. One of the important manifestations of expressiveness is the use of rhetorical literature. Gates once said that ideographic literature is the strategy used by black figurative literature. Rhetorical desire is the most prominent feature of black expression. Black people's greatest contribution to literature lies in the use of rhetorical devices such as simile and metaphor, double description and verbal nouns. In *Beloved*, Morrison himself also attributes poetry to his black nature. I want to show the beauty of our words, its rhythm, its metaphor, its poetry, our people speaking beautiful words, with the rhythm of Biblical Mass. To sum up the previous discussion, I will compare the use of black literature by black and white writers.

Table 1. Comparison of the characteristics of black literature works

Features	Black Literature	Other English Literature
Language use	Less use of phonetic and grammatical irregularities	Irregularities Emphasizing Language and Grammar
Focus on works	Portraying characters Enhancing the Vitality of Works Stimulating Readers' Emotions Metaphor and simile Explain the author's point of view Reflect the social environment	Portraying characters Highlighting Cultural Level and Social Status Enhance the authenticity and vividness of works Stimulating Readers' Emotions Express the author's gist

As can be seen from the above table, black literature can play a role in portraying characters and enhancing vividness in the works of white and black writers, and they are the same in this respect. White writers mainly highlight the social status of the characters, while black writers focus on cultural heritage. Both use black literature to stimulate readers' emotions and express their views, but there are great differences between them.

2.3. Appreciation of black literature under critical theory

Appreciate black literature with literary criticism theory. Black literature is a regular and systematic literary form. It is different from the literary system of standard literature. Referring to standard literature, it is indeed non-standard. There are two main ways to use it in literary works. One is the use of black literature throughout the text, the other is the use of standard literature in narrative literature, dialogue and inner monologue. The first case is less, and the second case is more. Some people believe that the original text of a dialect can be translated by the standard language in the target language. But the author thinks that this method seems to be inappropriate. If standard literary translation is used, the special functions of non-standard forms of use in literature will disappear completely.

Black aesthetics, aiming at the quality of black culture, racial context and group identity of black culture, empha-

sizes the uniqueness and functionality of black literature, reflects the aesthetic values of black people, and shows strong theoretical vitality for a period of time. However, the black literary movement and its cultural nationalism seem to focus too much on the display of ideology, too much on political purposes, and its challenging position and emphasis on African culture-centered values are slightly isolated because they cannot be accepted by the mainstream American society. Houston Baker argues that this ideological-centered movement lacks a methodological basis for a serious analysis of black culture. Our position is nationalistic... Our results are sometimes not optimistic. We are familiar with such terms as black aesthetics, black power, national era, etc. If these words are limited, then our vision is limited. Thus, once critical discourse is ideologized in political and cultural concepts, the value of literary aesthetic evaluation will inevitably show a huge contrast. Therefore, some active advocates of cultural nationalism have abandoned their position and turned to structuralism theory. In 1976, Neil admitted in his contribution of black people to American literature that the emotional rhetoric dimension in nationalist criticism was no longer feasible. Baraka has changed from a cultural black nationalist to a pure Marxist, which is also a dramatic change for the development of black aesthetics. Therefore, the content of black literature appreciation and analysis under the critical theory is analyzed as follows.

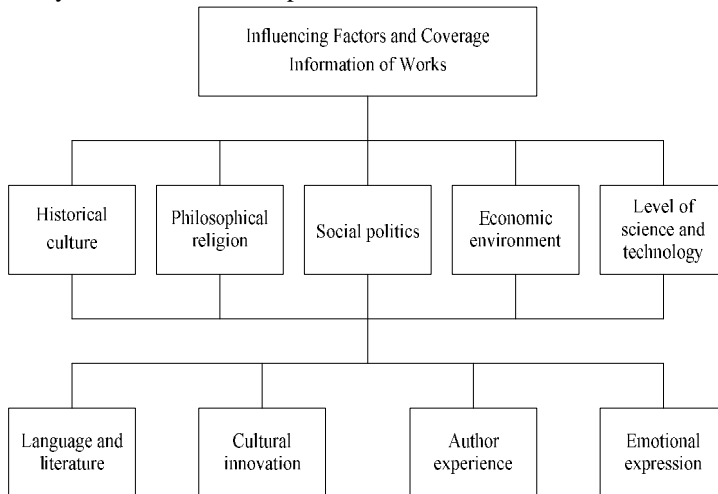


Figure 3. The appreciation and analysis of black literature under the criticism theory

The latest development of black literary criticism is that theorists have a broad understanding of the concept of text. Text becomes an arbitrary place to represent meaning, and culture also represents textual events that need to be interpreted. This new theoretical trend has opened up new research fields for black literary criticism. More and more theorists have found that they have broken the theoretical framework of traditional literary analysis and turned to the cultural information loaded by other multi-

cultural patterns. Such cultural presentations include film, television, dance, music and other cultural carriers. This shift to cultural studies complicates the academic thinking and identity of critics. As Rubiano pointed out, African American literary discourse is not and never monotone. It focuses on the relationship between power and social and economic history. This sentence clearly illustrates the cultural connotation of the social and political sub-texts contained in the black literature. For example,

critics use black funeral as a text to read and analyze black culture in the United States. The purpose is to dig out the connection between culture and black life in the United States and expand the understanding of black culture. To achieve the goal of effective appreciation and criticism of the unique African American literature.

3. Analysis of Experimental Results

In order to verify the feasibility of black American literature appreciation strategy under the literary criticism theory, this paper compares the effect of traditional litera-

ture appreciation with that of this appreciation method. The specific content of the comparison is as follows. On the premise of maintaining the consistency between the results of the comparison of literary works or interpretative frameworks of specific works and the results of the comparison with the clues of question consciousness, this paper analyses the influence of the results of the two poles on the acceptability of the appreciation strategies of African-American literature under the traditional research methods and the literary criticism theory. Specific analysis, as shown in the following figure.

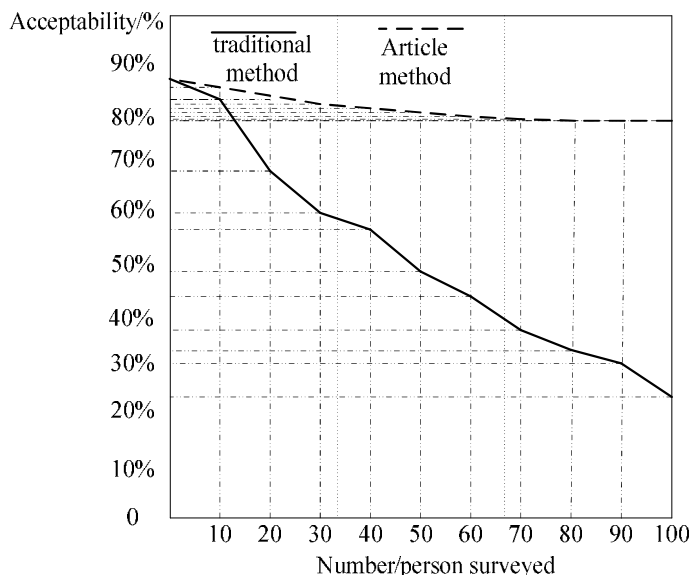


Figure 4. An acceptability survey of black literature appreciation

The comparative results shown in Fig. 1 show that the acceptability of the initial results of the two methods is 87%. When the number of people surveyed is 10, the acceptability of the results of the traditional methods is 83%. The acceptability of the results of the literary appreciation strategies of African Americans based on literary criticism theory is 86%. When the number of people surveyed is 30, the acceptability of the results of the traditional methods is 59%. The acceptability of the results of the traditional methods is 59%. The acceptability of literary appreciation strategies for African Americans is 83% in the light of literary criticism theory, 48% in the case of 50 respondents, 82% in the case of literary criticism theory, and 36% in the case of 70 respondents. Based on literary criticism theory, the acceptability of

research results on black American literary appreciation strategies is 80%. When the number of respondents is 90, the acceptability of traditional research results is 30%. The acceptability of research results on black American literary appreciation strategies based on literary criticism theory is 79%. Therefore, under the comparison of the two poles, the acceptance of black American literary appreciation strategies based on literary criticism theory is higher than that of traditional methods. The impact of comparative results of specific literary works or interpretation frameworks on the preference of black American literature appreciation strategies under the perspective of traditional research methods and literary criticism theory is analyzed as shown in the figure.

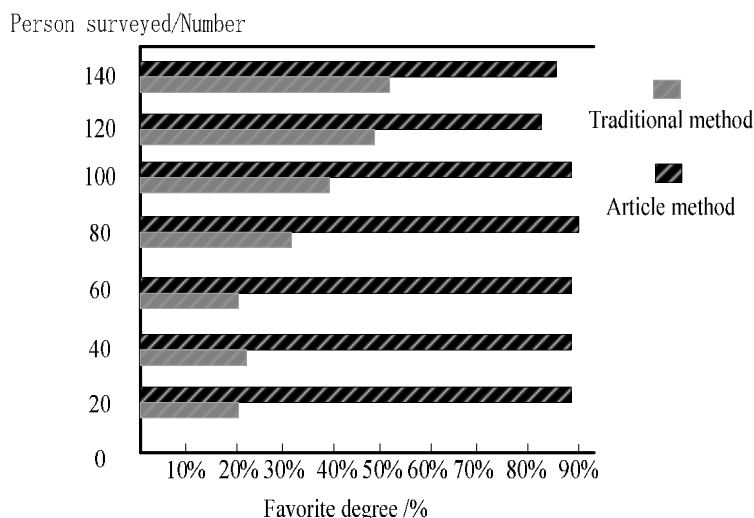


Figure 5. A survey of afro-american literature appreciation

As can be seen from fig. 2, 140 people were selected for investigation and research, and it was found that when the number of people surveyed was 20, the traditional research method had the lowest popularity, which was 20%, while the research method based on literary criticism theory had a popularity of 88%. When the number of people surveyed is 140, the traditional research method enjoys the highest popularity, with 48%, while the research method based on literary criticism theory enjoys 85%. When the number of people surveyed is 120, the acceptability of the research results of black American literature appreciation strategy under the perspective of literary criticism theory is the lowest, at 79%, while the acceptability of the research results of traditional methods is 46%. When the number of people surveyed is 80, the acceptability of the results of the study on black American literature appreciation strategy under the perspective of literary criticism theory is the highest, 90%, while the acceptability of the results of the study by traditional methods is 30%. Therefore, under the framework of specific literary works or interpretations, the adoption of the appreciation strategy of black American literature based on literary criticism theory is more acceptable than the research results of traditional methods. Based on the consistency of the above-mentioned contrastive contents and the consistency of the contrastive results between the two poles and specific literary works or interpretative frameworks, this paper analyses the influence of the contrastive results on the acceptance of African-American literary appreciation strategies in the light of traditional

research methods and literary criticism theory, as shown in Figure 6.

As it can be seen from fig. 3, the same 300 people were selected as the objects for the case study, and it was found that when the number of people surveyed was 60, the recognition rate of the traditional method was 65%, and the recognition rate of the research on black American literature appreciation strategy based on literary criticism theory was 88%. When the number of people surveyed is 120, the acceptance rate of traditional research is 62%, and that of black American literature appreciation strategy research based on literary criticism theory is 90%. When the number of people surveyed is 180, the approval rate of traditional research is 53%, and the approval rate of the research results of black American literature appreciation strategy based on literary criticism theory is 86%. When the number of people surveyed is 240, the approval rate of traditional research is 47%, and the approval rate of research results of black American literature appreciation strategy based on literary criticism theory is 91%. When the number of people surveyed is 300, the approval rate of the research results using traditional methods is 40%, and the approval rate of the research results of the black American literature appreciation strategy based on the literary criticism theory is 91%. Therefore, under the clue of problem consciousness, the adoption of black American literature appreciation strategy based on literary criticism theory is more acceptable than the research results of traditional methods. According to the above examples, the conclusion can be drawn as shown in Table 2.

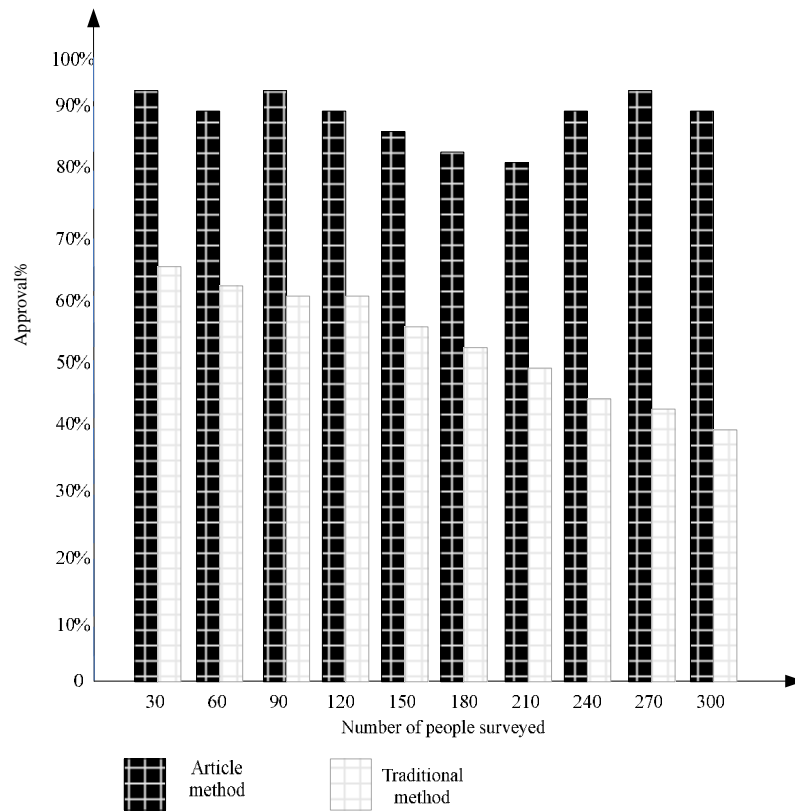


Figure 6. A survey on the recognition of black literature appreciation based on literary criticism theory

Table 2. Example conclusions

Strategic comparison		Traditional method	This method	The difference
Comparative value	Maximum value	83%	86%	3%
	Minimum value	25%	79%	54
Interpretation of literary works	Maximum value	48%	90%	42
	Minimum value	20%	79%	59
Problem consciousness	Maximum value	65%	95%	30
	Minimum value	40%	85%	45

From the perspective of literary criticism theory, we can see that black American literary appreciation strategies have high acceptability under three conditions. From this, we can see that the acceptance, audience preference and reader acceptance of black American literary appreciation measurement based on literary criticism theory are relatively high. From this, we can see that the strategies of black American literature appreciation based on literary criticism theory have sufficient application space.

4. Concluding Remarks

Black American literature has a comparative nature in the study of Chinese culture. Through comparison, we can see the differences between them, further explore the reasons for the differences, and people can also determine the way to follow specific directions at certain times. It is of practical significance for Sinologists to

combine impact studies with parallel studies to obtain the similarities and differences between them.

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