

Ecofeminism Interpretation of the Image of Sula

Comment on the image of Sula from Toni Morrison's novel

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Abstract: Ecofeminism is a product of the combination of women's Liberation Movement and ecological movement, so it is not only a study of feminism, but also one of the important schools of ecological philosophy. From the perspective of gender, ecofeminism points out that the rule of man and the rule of nature are rooted in the understanding of the patriarchal system. The emergence of eco feminism indicates that the status of women is gradually increasing. In the patriarchal society, women were oppressed, so women had no social status. Eco feminism has begun to awaken people's minds, especially those with a high level of consciousness. "Sula" is a famous American writer Toni Morrison's works. Sula is one of the most controversial figures in all of Morrison's novels, this is because she used a unique way to fight the world unfair. This paper tries to interpret Sula from the Ecofeminism perspective image, which can provide new ideas and new perspectives for future research on Sula.

Keywords: Ecological feminism; Sula; Patriarchal ideology; Freedom

1. Introduction

Ecological feminism was born in 1970s. Eco feminism came into being in 1970s, which is due to the fact that people's living conditions are getting better and better after the industrial revolution, this has aroused people's thinking on women's human rights. Eco feminism studies the two aspects of nature and women, and closely links these two aspects. In the patriarchal society, men have a high social status, so they can trample on the dignity of women. With the gradual progress of society, a small number of women began to wake up, so they began to fight for their rights. "Sula" heroine is Sula, she is the representative of eco feminism. She didn't give in to the real world, and she fought against the patriarchal society. She was not accepted by the society, but it also shows that the progress of the society, so it has a certain impact on the society at that time. But a person's strength is limited, so she eventually cannot escape the tragic fate.

2. The Definition of Ecological Feminism

Eco feminism was originally produced in western capitalist countries, it mainly studies the relationship between women and nature, as well as the criticism of the patriarchal system. With the continuous progress of society, women's consciousness began to awaken, so the ecological feminism began to produce. Life should be equal, but the social status quo is that men have a decided advantage, while women in society suffered endless oppression. Most women succumb to this situation, and they don't know how to fight for their own destiny. There are also

some people in the society who have a high ideological consciousness, they understand that women have made important contributions to the society, so they began to make efforts to improve the status of women. There are also some women who use their actions to express their dissatisfaction with society. Ecological feminism had a great influence on the society at that time.

3. Research Status of Eco Feminism at Domestic and Abroad

3.1. Foreign research status

The term "eco feminism" was first produced from the book of "Feminism or destruction" in 1974 by Fran Dio Bona, who is a French female writer. The theory of eco feminism is becoming more and more mature, and more and more female scholars have joined the study of this theory and published a series of literary works. For example, "the rights and commitments of eco feminism", "defending free feminism" and so on, these works show that people began to pay attention to women's social status. There are a lot of studies on Ecological Feminism abroad, but it is divided into three main groups: spiritual ecological feminism, socialist ecological feminism and philosophical ecofeminism. The theory of spiritualecofeminism focuses on the close relationship between women and nature. At the same time, it is believed that the deterioration of the environment has a certain relationship with the patriarchal society. Socialist ecological feminism analyzes the causes of women's oppression, it aims to improve the social status of women by changing

various social factors of politics, economy and culture. Philosophical ecological feminism focuses on philosophy.

3.2. Domestic research status

Our country's eco feminist theory is borrowed from foreign countries, so China's eco feminist theory is not mature. However, there are many works about Eco feminism in the market, for example, "comments on Ecological Feminism", "the commentary of western eco feminism" and "ecological feminism and its significance" and so on.

4. The Interpretation of the Role of Sula

"Sula" is Toni Morrison's works. Sula's personality is very wild and intractable. The article profoundly reveals the oppression and bullying suffered by blacks, which is the silent accusation of black people. The author is a black woman, she is better able to understand the suffering of black people. Morrison described the plight of black women in her unique perspective, and revealed that the black women lost their self under the strong impact of the white culture. Sula is one of the representative figures of ecofeminism.

4.1. The characteristics of black women who lost themselves

This novel has created many female images, most of which are subject to racial discrimination and oppression of the patriarchal society. Sula's mother Hanna is always around in the men's side, she treated the man softly, and she never complained about the man. Her grandmother Eva was a resolute woman, she often teaches Sula to respect and love her man. Helena is a typical black woman who has all the characteristics of the black women in that era. Helena took good care of her husband's daily life and didn't want to fight for his own fate. In the long-term social oppression and discrimination, they lost the consciousness of resistance, but also want to accept the fate. Whether at domestic or abroad, the patriarchal society has been oppressing women. In ancient China, patriarchal ideology is more ingrained. "The woman is not only Germany", "only the villain and the woman is difficult to support", which fully shows that the society does not attach importance to women. Shakespeare in the "taming of the Shrew" in a clear record of the attitude towards women at the society, they think women are man's private property, just like land, houses, cattle and horses. This shows that in the patriarchal society, women are only men's accessories.

4.2. Ideological Awakening

Sula's life is spent in the black community, and she did a lot of treason and heresy. She killed a man, against her grandmother, do not comply with the regulations of the community, no sense of shame, with many men go to bed and then put them off, she has no sense of responsibility,

at the same time she is not subject to moral constraints. The author spent a lot of time describing Sula bad deeds, through these descriptions, the author skillfully express their views. In the racist male dominated society, women have no place. Many black women express their dissatisfaction with contemporary society with their own words and deeds. Sula wanted to use her evil to subvert the patriarchal society. A person's strength is weak, but it shows that black thinking is awakening. In this paper, the author depicts an indomitable, life-long struggle and the pursuit of self-image of women.

5. The Significance of Study on the Image of Sula

"Sula" description of a black women who construct their subject consciousness, this is a special case in the society at that time. Sula bravely changed the traditional social situation of black women oppressed. She made a violent attack on the patriarchal society, and she knew that only by eliminating the unfair social phenomenon can women be free, independent and valued. But her own strength is weak, so only to change her own character. So she has no sense of responsibility, and arbitrary tease men. She passed out to vent their dissatisfaction with society, so she eventually became a victim of society.

The interpretation of Sula's eco feminism image makes us know that: Women are more close to nature, while the tone of male ethics is hostile to nature; Life on earth is an interconnected network, and there is no upper and lower levels; A balanced ecosystem must include man and non-man. It is necessary to re-understand the relationship between man and nature. Sula struggles in harsh environments and patriarchal thoughts, which is fully embodied the spirit of pursuit of ecological balance, the spirit of freedom and ecological feminism spirit, which also encouraged women to pursue equality, freedom and development.

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