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The Coincidence of Korean Family Ethics Drama

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Abstract: *Propp in Morphology of Folktale tells that "the change in folktales is the names of the roles, not the action or function", Propp defined characters of folktales depending on their function. This paper will analyze the coincidence of Korean family ethic dramas from these three aspects: coincidence of character's relation, coincidence of random events, and coincidence of actions. At the same time point out that although different family ethic dramas coincide in various forms, there still are some modular features.*

Key words: *Korean family ethics drama; Coincidence; Narration*

TV series which is an artistic expression and reproduction of real life, during the process of reflecting and refracting reality, on the one hand, TV series are attached great importance to the causal relation and sequential relation in events, to let story present inevitably and rational, on the other hand, TV series are emphasized the contingency which is beyond of the necessity.

Introduction

Seymour Chatman, said in Stories and Discourses that "Both the sequence relation and the causality relation are inevitable". Jean Pouillon proposed to use the term "contingency" which the existence, occurrence and characteristics depended on uncertainties, strictly speaking in philosophical. For the inevitability, contingency is not just an opposite but a complement,what's more, as a complement of causality and order, fortuity not only exists in real life widely, but also is an important means which reflect reality and increase the dramatic effect. There are countless contingencies in reality and history, but they are always drowned by significant inevitabilities. Robert Mckee expressed his emphasis on coincidence from the perspective of creation, he said that coincidence, after all, is a powerful part of life, which often makes a great impact on people's lives, but it disappears just as absurdly as when it comes. Therefore, the solution is not to avoid coincidences, but to dramatize how it enters life meaninglessly and then gain meaning with the passage of time, and show how the counter-logic to be the logic of life reality.

Research Focus

This paper will start with the "conincedence" which can be treated as the "fortuitous contingency", and studies the function of coincidence in narrative structure of Korean family ethics dramas. As for coincidence, some people think that 'coincidence is a skillful method of incidents in life and a supplement to the inevita-

bility of objective laws' Wang Jide who is a Chinese drama artist evaluated in Melody that artistic appeal of Yuan dramas is in point of coincidence. Russian literary theorist Belinsky also commented on Othello, saying that if there were no coincidence, a tragedy would be suffered ruin. Hegel affirmed the value of coincidence from the comedy creation level. He believed that sometimes the character of a figure had no comedy, but under certain circumstances, the character could produce comedy, the reason for this comedy effect lies largely in the using of coincidence. As for coincidence, it is generally believed that three conditions are needed: first, there is a certain connection between two things or events; second, the connection is not arranged beforehand, but generated randomly; third, the connection itself has singular characteristics and has a certain narrative function. Based on this, this section will analyse the mechanism of coincidence in Korean family ethic dramas from the three aspects: relationship setting, event arrangement and action designing, to use three TV series as representatives :Golden Era of Daughter in Law, What Happens to My Family? and All together.

Discussion

The Coincidences of Characters' Relationships

The coincidence formed by the relationships among characters is an important part of the scriptwriter's planing for the stylistic rules and the layout of the whole story. As a special case of contingency, coincidence is an important source of Korean family ethic drama, which is the source to enrich the dramatic effects. For the coincidence of characters' relationships can not only produce more novel character relationships, but also diversify contradictions.In the next, there will be a detailed analysis of the coincidence in the setting of relationships among these TV plays that Golden Era of Daughter in Law, What Happens to My Family? and All together.

The coincidence of the characters' relationships in the Golden Era of Daughter in Law. One of the most important characters' relationships in this TV series is that Li's son fell in love with Zhao's daughter, and at the same time Zhao's son fell in love with Li's daughter. The value of this coincidence in this TV series is that the special form of family relationship: exchanging marriage. In this drama, the mother-in-law of Li's son, at the same time, is also his daughter's mother-in-law. This special identity makes the relationship between the mother-in-laws and the daughter-in-laws to be more comic.

The coincidence of the characters' relationships in All together. Not like the Golden Era of Daughter in Law. Though this TV series presented a comic ending, but it was also interpreted with a tragic color. There are several coincidences formed by the relationships among characters in this TV series. First of all, Lee Han's relationship with Han Jin Kyung and Han Soo Hyun, is not like the traditional TV series which deduces the hatred of sisters, there is no logical necessity, the reason why the two sisters loved a man at the same time belongs to the category of coincidence. But it is the coincidence that is of great significance to highlight the character of the two sisters and to strengthen the contradiction between the two mothers. The setting up of this coincidence not only triggered the contradiction between the two sisters, but also caused the contradiction between the two mothers of the two sisters, and pushed Lee Han into a dilemma of choice.

The coincidence of the characters' relationships in What Happens to My Family? Not just like the All togeth-

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er has a tragic shadow on the comedy ending, this TV series strengthens the value and significance of a tragic ending in the form of comedy. In this TV series, the main means of narrative construction are the causal relations and sequential relations which are dominated by inevitability, there are a few coincidence settings on the level of the characters' relationships. The coincidence only lies on the relationship between Moon Tae Joo and Yoon Eun Ho who were opposed each other for the reason of Cha Kang Sim, but Moon Tae Joo's father and Yoon Eun Ho's mother were a couple of former lovers and prospective to be married. This coincidence not only aroused the opposition of the two sons to the marriage of the two old people, but also strengthened the role of Cha Kang Sim in the solution of contradictions, thus created a fuller and stereoscopic image of the character.

The Coincidence of Events in TV Series

The essence of coincidence is that the contingencies are consistency, which inevitably involves two or more objects that have something inconsistency. From the event level of Korean family ethics dramas, the consistency here refers to the coincidence or diachronic coincidence of two events, which we can call the synchronic coincidence and diachronic coincidence of events.

Synchronism coincidence refers to the coincidence of two events which occur almost simultaneously at the same place. Diachronic coincidence refers to different events that involve two common characters, which occur successively to form coincidence. In the next we will take these three Korean family ethics operas as examples and to analyze the coincidence which is form by the arrangement events in Korean family dramas.

The coincidence that formed by the arrangement of events in the Golden Era of Daughter in Law. In the seventh episode of the TV series, Li's quasi-daughter-in-law, in her bad mood someday, to go with her quasi-husband to drink, and she was arguing to drink more when she got drunk. Then they were happening to go into a restaurant which is managed by Li's family, this coincidence that led the quasi-daughter-in-law to meet her quasi-mother- in-law family when she was drunk. This incident plays an important role in the whole chain of events, although for the quasi-mother-in-law who has traditional ideas that make her be quite dissatisfied with her quasi-daughter-in-law, the gramma of Li hoped her grandson to marry with the quasi-daughter-in-law. And the relationship between Cha Soon Hyun and Kim Ki Ha is not only a coincidence at the characters' relationships, but also coincidence at the events. For example, their four times meetings are almost coincidence. The first time when they met was to take the same taxi, and the second time they not only came to a restaurant at the same time, but also ate together for there was no table available.

The third time meeting was that Cha Soon Hyun saw a parked car by the roadside and found that the person inside was Kim Ki Ha. The fourth incident was that when Cha Soon Hyun wanted to find a photographer, and Kim Ki Ha was that one who his colleagues brought in. The four events constitute a coincidence. This diachronic coincidence not only promotes the development of the relationship between the two people, but also arouses the expectation of the audience. They can interpret the possible future direction of the relationship between the two people from the coincidence, and they hold a mood of expectation, which go throughout the TV series, and at the end of the TV play audiences were satisfied with the two people meet in the United States again for a coincidence again.

The coincidence of event arrangement in All together. The coincidence of event arrangements in this TV series also plays an important role in promoting the development of characters' relationships. One of the coincidences was between Han Jin Woo and Kang Na Yoon. The two people happened to meet at the airport in the first episode of this TV series, the heroine was almost hit by car which is driven by the leading man. And the second times meeting was in a company which is opened by Kang Na Yoon's father, When the hero saw the heroine coming to the company, he mistook her for compensation. Unexpectedly, she was not only a new employee of the company, but also a new employee of the company, and the daughter of the company's owner. This kind of coincidence arrangement is quite common in Korean family etheic dramas. Just similar to the coincidence between Cha Soon Hyun and Kim Ki Ha, the audience and the scriptwriter have formed a similar common context to the stereotype on such coincidence arrangement. If the relationship of the two people develops according to the stereotype, the expectations of the audience will be met, if not in accordance with the traditional way there will be a sudden change in the narrative structure of these TV series. If we can cross over specific characters, we will find that the coincidence here is just like what Propp said in Story Morphology that "the change in folktales is the names of the roles, not the action or function". We can also say that "the change in folktales is the names of the roles, the constant is the function of such coincidence in the narrative".

The coincidence of event arrangement in What Happens to My Family? If the coincidences in the first two TV series are more diachronic, the coincidences at the structure of event in this TV series are more synchronic. The main reason for this difference is that the comedy style of this TV series is more prominent, and synchronic coincidence is of great significance to highlight and strengthen the comedy style. In the fourth episode of this TV series, Kang Seoul and Cha Kang Sim were all drunk because of their own minds. Kang Seoul wants to prove to Moon Tae Jo that the relationship between herself and the chairman is innocent, and Cha Kang Sim wants to confirm that Cha Dal Bong would marry herself, the two women chose the same behavior: kissing their man. As far as real life is concerned, two incidents occur in difference space, which can not constitute a coincidence at the same time. However, this TV series crosscuts intercutting two simultaneous incidents by means of parallel montage editing. This editing technique creates the feeling that two incidents occur almost at the same time and in the same place, and brings a sense of comedy to the audience. It can be said that the coincidence in TV play is not entirely consistent with the coincidence in the real world. It is a sensory coincidence formed by editing. The formation of coincidence to a certain extent depends not only on the arrangement of events, but also on the audio-visual language of TV plays.

The Coincidence of Actions in TV Series

The coincidence of actions refers to a kind of coincidence formed by body movements of actors. Coincidence is a special occasion of contingency, there is a difference in probability among coincidence, contingency and necessity, except the differences in internal causality. In real life, the probability of coincidence occurring is the lowest, but as a narrative art, TV series need to strengthen and highlight contradictions, so the operation of coincidence in narration must be emphasized. Therefore, it is an inevitable choice that more coincidences appear in TV series. The action coincidence appearing in these three TV plays does not have significant impetus to the whole narrative progress, but as an action coincidence, it has positive significance in triggering contradictions, creating comedy sense of characters and plots, and promoting emotion.

The action coincidence of Golden Era of Daughter in Law. In episode 4, around 25 minutes, Cho In Woo

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carries the drunken Lee Bok Nam and began to complain, Lee Bok Nam farted twice in succession when his complaint has just ended, the two actions occur in succession that strengthens the comedy of the plot.

At about 39 minutes in episode 7, when neighbor of Cho Mi Jin happened to come up from behind her. Lee Bok Soo tried to stop her from going on talking, but Cho Mi Jin swept her handbag into her neighbor‘s eyes at the end. This coincidence not only connects Cho Mi Jin with her neighbors, but also provides a basis for the progression of the deeper level relationship between the two people. Besides that the image of Cho Mi Jin’ s handbag has also been strengthened. Since then, Cho Mi Jin has been called “crocodile bag”.

The action coincidence in What Happens to My Family? At about 28 minutes of episode 7, Cha Kang Sim met Moon Tae Joo, who was eating in a restaurant. Moon Tae Joo was very surprised when he saw Cha Kang Sim and vomited the meal on her face. In the course of rubbing for her, he accidentally placed his hand on Cha Kang Sim’s chest, which was also an action of coincidence. Obviously, the action coincidence here is not to intensify the contradiction between the two people, but to create a sense of comedy. At about 60 minutes in 7 episodes, Kang Seoul went around the bed to see what was in Cha Dal Bon’s handbag. During the snatching, the male protagonist happened to press on the female protagonist, and at that time, father of the female protagonist pushed the door into the house and saw it. The two actions happened simultaneously, which led to the “misunderstanding” which is a narrative mean commonly used in TV dramas and pushed forward their emotions go ahead.

Conclusion

The action coincidence in All together. At about 39 minutes in episode 3, HaYoon Jung accidentally fell into Lee Joon Woo‘s arms when hanging pictures on the wall in her studio. At the same time, her mother opens the door and enters the room. Comparing the process of this coincidence and the previous action coincidence between Cha Dal Bong and Kang Seoul, they are essentially identical and perform the same narrative function. Thus, this kind of action coincidence is often the origin of misunderstanding, but also an important source of Korean family ethics opera.

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This paper is the phased achievement of the key subject of art in Shandong Province, the research on the influence and mechanism of Confucian ethics on family drama.

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