

Research on the Value of Greek and Roman Mythology to English Language and Literature

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ABSTRACT. *Greek and Roman mythology has a very long history and profound cultural heritage. After thousands of years of inheritance and development, it has formed a very unique cultural connotation, which has become the light of civilization in the world and accompanied by the European Renaissance Movement. In-depth development has had a huge impact on the development of Western society and culture. To some extent, Greek and Roman mythology is the source of the European Renaissance. During the European Renaissance, Greek and Roman mythology appeared again in front of people. Its continuous spread and development have had a huge impact on the English language system. For comparison, the following is a comprehensive analysis of the influence and enlightenment of Greek and Roman mythology on English language and literature.*

KEYWORDS: *Greek and Roman mythology, English language and literature, English literature, value, inspiration*

1. Introduction

Ancient Greece is the source of the development of Western civilization. In the 5th-6th century BC, after the acceptance of the Hippo war, the economy of ancient Greece reached a new height, providing a good historical environment for the splendid ancient Greek cultural development[1]. In Greece Under the influence of Roman culture, Western culture has also developed well. Greek mythology has a profound impact on human civilization. As far as the Renaissance in the Middle Ages in Europe was concerned, the Renaissance was carried out under the background of Greek mythology. Looking at the formation of the English system, it was also inseparable from the Greek civilization. A language research scholar Edward Sapier said: "The formation and perfection of a language system is inseparable from its huge cultural background." The foundation of the English system is Greek mythology, which not only contributed to the formation of the English system and it is also used by people in English-speaking countries for reference in later generations. Greek mythology not only affects Europe, but the whole world is shocked by it. From the perspective of social development today, Greek and Roman mythology has a huge impact on Western society. As for the language of English, its formation and development are all related to Greek and Roman. Mythology has great relevance. For the development of English language and literature, its development has been inspired by Greek and Roman mythology[2].

2. A brief overview of Greek and Roman mythology

The ancient Greek and Roman myths mainly recorded the spirits, cosmic forms and heroes of the ancient Greek people[3]. Although these stories in ancient Greek civilization are called mythological stories in later generations, they contain not only the gods in the hearts of the ancient Greek people, but also ordinary people, heroes and even imaginative monsters living in Greek and Roman mythology. For Greek mythology, it records the inner cosmic forms, gods, and heroes of the ancient Greek people. Although these contents are included in the category of mythological stories in Greek civilization, there are some ordinary deeds. Therefore, ancient Greek mythology can be divided into two situations, one is a story based on gods; the other is a story based on heroes and ordinary people, such as the Virgin Mary, Caesar and so on. These stories continue to spread in European culture and have a great impact on the development of western society. Compared with Greek mythology, Roman mythology has a strong religious flavor. In Roman mythology, it is not a single description of a hero or a god. It is based on the behavioral relationship between man and god, god and god. Roman mythology has absorbed the essence of Greek culture and continued it. Most of the common Western myths in the current society come from Roman mythology[4].

3. The influence of Greek and Roman mythology on English language vocabulary

Many of the vocabulary in English comes from other countries, and related research shows that modern English language mainly comes from Greek and Latin, and these two languages are integrated into the English language through Greek and Roman mythology[5]. In the current English vocabulary, there are many words about Greek and Latin, such as the names of the gods in Greek and Roman mythology, as well as the names of the twelve constellations and the naming of the heavenly planets. In addition, in English vocabulary, there are many meaning extensions through words and phrases in Greek and Roman mythology[6].

At present, the English vocabulary derived from Greek and Roman mythology can be roughly divided into two cases: ordinary vocabulary and professional terminology. Among the common vocabulary, there are the names of gods, ghosts, and heroes in mythological stories, such as the goddess of cereals in Greek mythology. The English word for "Celes" is "Ceres", and the "cereal" in English is derived from this word "cereal". Some place names in Greek and Roman mythology also have a certain influence on today's English vocabulary. For example, Athene represents the current place name Athens "Athens". For professional terminology, it is more expressed in the natural sciences. For example, in the mythology, Mars is the representative of the God of War, and Venus is the god of love and beauty[7].

4. The influence of Greek and Roman mythology on English literature

The development of English literature has a great connection with the British Renaissance. The 16th century Renaissance prevailed in Europe and became a revolutionary means of integrating art, science and literature. From a literary perspective, the Renaissance can also be regarded as "literary "Rebirth". During this period, literary writers re-examined ancient Greek and Latin works. Some old templates were gradually circulated by people, and in literary creation, they will be regarded as a range, imitating their style.

During the English Renaissance, Shakespeare was a playwright who had to mention it. In Shakespeare's Troy Ross and Cressida, it was adapted from the legendary story in Homer's epic Iliad. In this work, it describes the Trojan War and the love of two young people in the war. Shakespeare's "Venus and Adonis" is selected from the ancient Roman myth described by Ovid and adapted from it. Prototypes of ancient Greek and Roman mythology can be found in many of Shakespeare's works. Another example is in the "Midsummer Night's Dream", the description of the elopement of La Sande and Hermia is influenced by the Greek mythology, praising the greatness and loyalty of love. In addition, when Shakespeare created many female images, they often compared them to Athena. In ancient Greek mythology, Athena can be a symbol of wisdom[8].

In the creation of the poem "Bacchus Mask", the poet Milton also draws on the story characters in Greek and Roman mythology[9]. The thinker Barrett put forward during the British Enlightenment Movement "the Greeks put forward logic, and the mythical story. It is the enlightenment of the literary movement." In the 19th century, romantic poets favored Greek and Roman mythology. Many poets used the prototypes and related plots of Greek and Roman mythology to create poetry. Byron and Shelley are the two poets most influenced by Greek mythology. After the end of the Greek Liberation War, Byron returned to the country and wrote "Tang Juan". The Byron-style heroes he portrayed and fought alone and used his own power to resist the evils of the world. This mythical performance was undoubtedly affected by Greek and Roman mythology influences. In addition, Byron's long poem "Prometheus" has been translated into "I have watched you cry", and its source of creation is also a god in Greek and Roman mythology. Shelley's creation of "The Prometheus Liberated" is based on the ancient Greek and Roman mythology. In Greek mythology, Prometheus is full of wisdom and unpredictable prophets. Shelley was bound in "Prometheus" changed to "Liberated Prometheus". In addition, in Shelley's "Adonis", it is also based on the mythology of the wild boar killing Venus lover Adonis. It can be said that the ancient Greek and Roman mythology is the foundation of the poet Shelley's creation.

5. The inspiration of Greek and Roman mythology to English language

From the actual situation of English language, the influence of Greek and Roman myths is mainly on English words and daily English communication. After a long period of development, the English language has been very flexible, and in practical applications, it will also use metaphors, anthropomorphism and other techniques to make the language expression more vivid and vivid[10]. An analysis of the development of the English language can be found to be influenced by Greek and Roman mythology. Some mythical words have become part of the current daily expression of English. For example, Europe (Europa) is derived from Greek and Roman mythology. Phoenician wife Zeus Princess, to Paris (Paris) is the name of Prince Troy Polis. It can be said that myths and stories have a high status in English language and culture, which is an important habit of current English

language and literature expression. The survey shows that in the English vocabulary system, more than 1,000 words are derived from Greek and Roman mythology. At the same time, these words have gradually produced new connotations in the new period, which has a great impact on the creation of English language and literature. In the development of English language and literature, the influence of Greek and Roman mythology is mainly manifested in the following aspects:

First, enrich the English language and literary vocabulary. Greek and Roman myths are not only the source and source of English literary creation, but also greatly enrich the English language vocabulary, which has greatly promoted the development of English language and literature. For example, in the field of English language and literature, the word "Pandora's box" is derived from Greek and Roman mythology. "Pandora" is a living body created by the spirit of the gods, which opens a box containing disasters, sins, and pains. Unfortunately, in the creation of English language and literature, the word "Pandora's box" often represents disaster.

Second, Greek and Roman mythology inspired the creation of English language and literature. For Greek and Roman mythology, it has the characteristics of vividness, image, and easy to understand. It is widely circulated in English-speaking countries. Many writers in the creation of myth story and creative subject combined together, thus showing the corresponding literary tendency. The works of the Romantic school in English language and literature were created on the basis of Greek mythology.

6. Conclusion

All in all, ancient Greek culture has a long history and profound heritage, not only has a profound impact on Europe, the current world human civilization is driven by its profound civilization, it has become the birthplace of European civilization, and has become an important English. The language component has a profound influence on English vocabulary in various fields, rich inspiration for cultural works of the last century and even this century, and is continuously used for reference and research by future generations. Its existence is a highlight of human civilization. The Greek-Roman mythology is not only the cradle of European civilization, but also the origin of Western social and cultural development. The Greek-Roman mythology not only embodies the command of the world at that time, but also produces the most widely used English language development and English literature creation.

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