

Text Analysis of through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There from the Perspective of Discourse World

Zhang Ji

Department of General Education, Chongqing Chemical Industry Vocational College, Chongqing 401220, China

ABSTRACT. *Discourse world theory is an important means of text analysis in the field of cognitive poetics. Applying discourse world theory to text analysis, especially fictitious texts, can enrich readers' multiple interpretations of the meaning of texts. This article defines the concept and connotation of the discourse and the discourse world, and analyzes the text Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There from the aspects of the application of the discourse world and the accessibility of the text, aiming to deepen the theory in the text.*

KEYWORDS: *Discourse, Discourse world, Accessibility, Text analysis*

1. Introduction

In linguistics, based on multiple perspectives and different theoretical frameworks, scholars have adopted various methods to explain discourse and text differently. Coulthard maintains that discourse refers to spoken language and text refers to written language; Halliday believes that text contains spoken and written text, while McCarthy holds that discourse refers to spoken language and written language; Cook argues that text is a language form with a constant meaning and has nothing to do with context, and discourse is a coherent Language fragments of sexual characteristics; Harris believes that these two terms can be used interchangeably; Hu Zhuanglin assumes that these two words are basically synonymous .

A discourse world is an imaginary world. Through reading, readers can conceive this fictional world, and this fictional world can also be used to understand and track the events and elements of their world. The discourse world is a principle of cognitive poetics. Like other cognitive mechanisms, it can be applied to literary reading and other cross-reading. In this way, we can understand the world of discourse as the regulatory domain, or mediating domain, of reality and mapped fictional scenes. In order to be able to do this, we must be able to coordinate trans-world identity, that is, we must have a mapping tool from one world to another.

2. Discourse World Classification and Theoretical Analysis

2.1 Discourse World Classification

Each character has a basic world of discourse in their fictitious mind, and readers also need to understand these belief systems. The following are six types of mutual transformations centered on character roles: epistemic worlds; knowledge worlds; characters in the fictional world; speculative extensions, that is what the characters speculate about their world or other assumptions they hold; intention worlds, namely, characters want to directly change what their world plans; wish worlds, that is , characters wish or imagine something that may be different from their world; obligation worlds: worlds of different appearances presented through the moral values of characters; Fantasy worlds: Characters construct their own dream, fantasy, imagination or fictional world.

2.2 Accessibility Classification

The close condition of replacing the discourse world and the real world is feasibility. Literary texts often work by exploring the disconnection between the character's knowledge and the broader knowledge provided to readers, and at the same time, the author has to understand these two systems to compare them. Even those novels that look

absolutely authentic are still examples of the world of discourse. A simple test for the replacement of the real world of discourse is to ask whether this fiction is part of that world; usually, people in soap operas will not watch soap ads. The closeness of the replaced discourse world and the real discourse world is only a matter of accessibility to reach this condition. According to real life, its measurement dimension has four aspects.

The first one is accessibility of objects, which is characterized by whether objects in the alternative world have the same characteristics as real objects. Does the alternative world have all the same objects as the real world? Are there fewer objects than the real world? For example, *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There* (hereinafter referred to as *Glass*) has more fictional unicorns. The second one is accessibility of time. Does the alternative world exist in the same present and the same history as the real world? The time of *Glass* is to go back and remember the future. It happened backwards. The third one is accessibility of nature. Does the natural law in the world of alternative discourse match the natural physical law of the real world, and do the logical and mathematical characteristics correspond. In *Glass*, animals and plants speak, and tableware and plants have life. The last one is accessibility of languages. Do the alternative world and the real world have the same language, the same language rules, the same cognitive model? Does the catalog in the alternative world exactly match the catalog in the real world?

Finally, in understanding the world of alternative discourses, the principle of minimal departure acts as an effective cognitive institution. Unless the text has other instructions, the reader will think it is consistent with the real world. However, in *Glass*, it seems to follow the principle of maximum deviation.

3. Text Analysis of Glass

3.1 Analysis of Discourse World

Alice's cognition in the story is consistent with the reader, but Alice in the world of *Glass* seems to be an alien invader. Through the world of discourse, readers can understand that the cognition of the world where Alice lives in the story is inconsistent with the cognition of the world in the mirror that Alice broke into. It seems absurd and unfamiliar, but within the reader's acceptance, it is rooted in reality but transcends reality. The side reflects the dialectic unity of literature and art as an aesthetic reflection that reflects reality and transcends reality.

3.1.1 The Cognitive World

In *Glass*, although Alice is in the world of *Glass*, her cognitive world is the same as that of readers. From the perspective of Alice, beliefs of the readers are right or wrong, which may completely present another scene. For example, in the first chapter, a live picture hung on the wall, the clock on the chimney had the face of an old man; the chess pieces were walking side by side, and the castle was walking arm in arm. In the second chapter, Alice always fell to reach her desired goal. If she wanted to approach a target on the board, she could only walk in the opposite direction; if she wanted to stay in place, she must run non-stop, and she must double the speed of usual; but if she wanted to go to another place, she must run faster. The Queen of the Red Party asked Alice to eat another biscuit to make sure that the biscuit played a role in quenching thirst, which made Alice feel baffled.

3.1.2 Speculative Extension

In Chapter 5, Alice bought eggs. When she reached to touch the eggs, the eggs got farther and farther away, and everything in the store became a tree. In the end she wondered if the eggs would turn into trees. According to Alice's real-world reasoning, eggs would become trees. But could normal thinking patterns become real in the mirror world? It is not known whether eggs can become trees, because all the normal logical reasoning seems not to work in this text.

3.1.3 Destination World

In the second chapter, the Queen of the Red Square told Alice that if she wanted to stay still, she had to run fast; if she wanted to go to a place, she had to run in the opposite direction. Therefore, when Alice wanted to guide her from a pawn to a queen through normal logical thinking, she often found that things were contrary to her wishes, and it simply did not work.

3.1.4 Wish World

From the first chapter, Alice fantasized that she could become a queen, and then the queen of the red party gave her instructions on how to become a queen from the first pawn to the eighth. The logical place of the whole book seems to be the order of Alice's instructions to the Queen of the Red Square. Instruction is the only way of thinking that is not disrupted and can be accepted by readers and Alice. At the end of the story, when Alice became a queen, she found that her dream had awakened. The swaying Queen of Red in the story turned into a black cat. This change seems to be a moment when Alice, the reader, the observer and participant of the story, have not yet figured out the clue. Is the dream really awake, or is it just the beginning of another dream?

3.1.5 Obligation World

Alice's obligation in the mirror was through the instructions of the Queen of the Red Square, how to pass through all kinds of strange, funny and adventurous experiences and finally become the queen. In the fourth chapter, when Alice and the twin brothers of Tweed and Tweed politely greeted each other, they were different from the reader and the world of Alice. They shook hands and danced in a circle, which is natural in the world of mirrors.

3.1.6 Fantasy World

In the second chapter, all the so-called "laws" in the world in the mirror where Alice is located seem to be incompatible with the cognition of reality. The world she imagines should be the same as the reality. However, the world in the mirror has deviated from our cognition, and even contrary to it.

3.2 Analysis of Accessibility in the Text

When it comes to the question of the accessibility of counterparts and real things, the objectively existing discourse provides us with a fictional world of discourse, and the discourse world also provides us with an intermediary for transformation, so that the reader can more clearly analyze the similarities and differences between this fictional text world and the real world.

3.2.1 Object Accessibility

In the first alternative world, things in the world where Alice lives are consistent with those in the world where readers live. However, things in the mirror world that Alice broke into are not. Although the world in the mirror also contains the animals and plants in the real world of the reader and the real text world where Alice lives, the plants in the world in the mirror will speak, and when the egg becomes a fat child, the availability of objects and the smallest Deviating from the principle, here is a completely different look.

3.2.2 Time Accessibility

Through the words of the Queen of the Red Square, readers can know that in the world of the mirror, time is counter-current. People's memories are two-way since they can both recall the past and "remember the future". If the reader's cognition is used to understand, then the "people" of the world in the mirror will predict the future. This also runs counter to the reader's real world and the real text world where Alice lives.

3.2.3 Natural Accessibility

At the first story level, the world of Alice and the world of readers are connected. However, as the second story layer, the world in the mirror has different natural laws from the world in which the reader lives and the world in which Alice lives. For example, the plants here grow in soft soil, but the plants in the world in the mirror live in hard land, which seems to violate the laws of nature and the common sense of the reader. However, in the world of the mirror, our "very reasonable" is the real common sense.

3.2.4 Language Accessibility

The world in the mirror is the second story layer. In the first chapter, Alice looks at King Red's notebook. The text in it is beyond Alice's understanding. However, when Alice thought that this was the world in the mirror, she reversed the text to the left and right, but vaguely found some individual words similar to her own world, and guessed the individual meaning. In the second story layer, the accessibility of language is not consistent with reality.

4. Conclusion

The world described in *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There* is wonderful. It allows readers to recognize the humor and changes in language. The fictional discourse world formed by objectively existing discourses creates a rich text world for readers. As an important part of cognitive poetics theory, discourse world theory fully demonstrates the expansibility and profoundness of discourse world theory in the analysis of literary works in the process of combining with the analysis of literary works, opening up a broader field.

References

- [1] Stockwell (2000). *Cognitive Poetics: An Introduction*[M]. London and New York.
- [2] Feng Zongxin (2011). Analysis of Cognitive Poetics in *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There* [J]. *Foreign Languages*, no4, pp.12-13.
- [3] Zhu Liyuan (2005). *Contemporary Western Literary Theory*[M]. East China Normal University Press.
- [4] Wang Yin (2009). *Cognitive Linguistics* [M]. Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.