

# Analysis of Film and Television Adaptation of Classical Literary Works

Zhong Lanqi

Northwest Normal University, Lanzhou, Gansu, China, 730000

**Abstract:** With the progress of the time and the enhancement of China's cultural strength, the film and television industry has made significant development, becoming the main field of the cultural industry. Film art, with its commercial feature, its goal is to achieve market benefits. However, this situation often leads to movies running counter to the spirit of literary classics. With the development of the film market, the capital influence on films is increasing. It not only helps the film to continuously innovate and capture the aspects that interest the audience the most, but also brings negative impacts. Film production and promotion require a large amount of capital investment, but investors usually hope to obtain investment by minimizing risks and maximizing benefits. Therefore, adapting movie scripts has become an effective way to avoid risks. Based on the changes in *Le Comte de Monte-Cristo*, this article deeply explores the dissemination effect of film and television adaptation on classic works, hoping to provide certain reference value for future research.

**Keywords:** film and television adaptation; *Le Comte de Monte-Cristo*; literary dissemination

## 1. Introduction

Literary classic works play an important role in the human cultural heritage. They are not only the carrier of cultural inheritance, but also the window for people to perceive the world. In the contemporary society, film and television, as an important cultural media, has become one of the important ways for people to obtain literary classic works. As a common traditional way, film and television adaptation can not only introduce the classic works into the vision of the broad audience, but also let the audience better understand and feel the connotation of the classic works. Therefore, an in-depth discussion of the role of film and television adaptation in the dissemination of classical works is not only helpful to promote the inheritance and development of classical literary works, but also conducive to the creation and development of film and television works. This paper mainly analyzes the role of adaptation in the dissemination of classic works, and introduces the Count of Monte Cristo as a case.

## 2. Overview of Film and Television Adaptation

Film and television adaptation is an art form that satisfies the audience's aesthetic needs and expression methods through adaptation of TV scripts or films. This art form can be presented through other forms, such as TV dramas, films, etc. In the 21st century, the adaptation of films and TV dramas has become a common phenomenon. Many classic literary works have been adapted into TV dramas or films due to their unique cultural charm and profound ideological connotations. This adaptation method not only brings more enjoyment to the audience, but also makes great contributions to cultural inheritance. This is no longer a past topic, but a new challenge. Adapting film and television works is an innovative strategy that draws on the essence of classic literary works and integrates them into contemporary stories. During this process, many literary works have been adapted into films and TV dramas, which helps to enhance the reputation and influence of literary writers. Therefore<sup>[1]</sup>, literary classics works and film adaptations complement each other, complementing each other's shortcomings to some extent. Film and television adaptation has become an indispensable part of literary works, and this trend is continuing to develop. Researchers are striving to find more interesting and vivid ways to adapt these works, and many new theories have emerged in the process. With the development of the time, literary classic works have received more and more recognition, and the theory of film and television adaptation is also constantly developing, making positive contributions to the dissemination of literary works<sup>[2]</sup>. The complementary relationship between literary classics and film and television adaptation is reflected in many aspects.

First, film and television adaptation can bring a wider audience for classic literary works. Compared

with the threshold of reading books, watching film and television works is usually easier to attract the attention of the audience, and can convey the story content through various forms such as sound and picture. Through film and television adaptations, classical literary works can walk into more people's lives, so that those who have no time or interest in reading can also understand and appreciate the charm of classical literature.

Secondly, film and television adaptation can enrich and supplement literary works through visual presentation and interpretation. Literary works often depict scenes and plots through words, while film and television works can be displayed through the language and pictures of movies. Film and television adaptation can turn words into images in a creative way, presenting a richer and more vivid world for the audience. At the same time, the film and television works can also convey the emotions and atmosphere through the performance of the actors and the use of sound effects, so that the audience can feel the story more immersive.

Third, film and television adaptation can also provide more entertainment elements and innovative highlights. In the process of film and television adaptation, directors, screenwriters and actors often make wonderful adaptation and innovations of the original work to adapt to the expression of film or television and the taste of the audience. These innovations may involve character setting, plot changes, line interpretation, and so on, bringing freshness and unique experience to the audience. Sometimes, a successful film and television adaptation can also reinterpret the theme and meaning of the classic works, presenting new interpretations and ideas.

However, there are also some challenges and controversies in film and television adaptation. Some viewers believe that the plot changes and the lack of original spirit, leading to some viewers to question the quality of the adapted works. In addition, the adaptation of literary works by film and television may also be affected by commercial interests and other factors, leading to the decline of the quality of the works or the loss of the unique charm of the original works.

In a word, the complementary relationship between literary classics and film and television adaptation enriches the dissemination and expression forms of classic works to a certain extent, but also faces some challenges. In the future, people's research and exploration of film and television adaptation will continue to develop, and make greater contributions to the inheritance and dissemination of classic literary works.

### **3. Basic Principles of Film and Television Adaptation**

#### ***3.1. Loyal to Originality and Readers***

Firstly, we must be loyal to the original work and the author. The basic principle of film and television adaptation is to be loyal to the original works and the original readers. When a work is adapted into a film or TV series, the core content and spirit of the original work should be respected, and the consistency of the plot, characters and themes should be maintained as far as possible. At the same time, the expectations and preferences of the original readers should also be considered to ensure that the adaptations can attract and meet their needs. In order to be loyal to the original work, the adapter should study and understand the original work carefully. They should try their best to capture the emotions, thoughts and intentions of the original work to avoid misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the original work. At the same time, the adapter should also respect the intellectual property rights and copyright of the author of the original work, and obtain legal authorization to adapt. This will maintain respect for the original works and avoid copyright infringement disputes. *Le Comte de Monte-Cristo* is a famous literary work that has been adapted into films and TV dramas by multiple countries since 1908. For example, The United Kingdom, the United States, the Soviet Union, and Korea have all adapted *Le Comte de Monte-Cristo* into film and television. *Le Comte de Monte-Cristo* has become a film, but it still retains the classic theme of 'revenge', which shows its loyalty to the original work. The film of *Le Comte de Monte-Cristo* changes the plot to make revenge a core theme, and vividly demonstrates the practical application of this theme in film and television works. The legendary characters in this work have been carefully designed and created, and their behavior and talk have been inspired by the original work, presenting vivid effects on the screen<sup>[3]</sup>.

#### ***3.2. Loyal to the Audience's Aesthetic Level and Appreciation Ability***

The charm of classic literary works lies in their ability to attract readers' aesthetics, and adapting them into films can better meet the needs of the audience. By combining literary works with films, readers can

better understand the content of the work and avoid awkward situations caused by different levels of reading ability between readers and films<sup>[4]</sup>. In this way, the audience can not only enjoy the aesthetic enjoyment brought by the classic literary works, but also feel the unique charm of the works more intuitively through the language of the images. Whether it is the transformation of words into pictures, or the display of the plot and characters through the performance of the actors, the adaptation of the film makes the classic literary works more intimate and vivid. Therefore, adapting literary works into films can not only continue the charm of the works, but also expand a wider audience and enhance the influence and value of the works. In addition, film adaptations can also help to promote and pass on classic literary works. Many classic literary works may have a limited readership group, and, by adapting them into films, the stories and themes of the works can be conveyed to more people. As a form of mass entertainment, film has a wider influence and audience base, and can attract more people to pay attention to and understand these classic works.

At the same time, the film adaptation has also injected new vitality and innovation into the classical literary works. Film is a unique art form, it has a unique way of expression and creative techniques. Through the adaptation, the film production team can use rich visual effects, music, actor performance and other elements to create a new work of art. This not only allows the audience to feel and understand the work in a variety of ways, but also injects new creativity and imagination into the work.

Of course, when making the film adaptation of literary works, we should also pay attention to retain the core spirit and aesthetic characteristics of the original works. Adaptation is not a simple copy and transplant, but to present the core value of the work on the basis of respecting the original work. Only in this way can film adaptation really play a role in promoting and inheriting classic literary works.

All in all, film adaptations have brought many benefits to classic literature. It can allow more people to contact and understand these classic works, and enhance their influence and value. At the same time, the unique art form of the film also injects new creativity and vitality into the work. Of course, the film adaptation also needs to properly retain the spiritual and aesthetic characteristics of the original work to ensure the integrity and quality of the work. In addition, film adaptations also give more intuitive and vivid images to the stories and characters of classic literary works. Through the visual and auditory expression techniques, the film can convey the complex emotions and thoughts in the original work in a short period of time. The ences can get a deeper understanding of the themes and meaning behind the story through the film.

In addition, film adaptations can also bring commercial success and influence to classic literary works. As a form of entertainment with a wide audience, the film has the ability of large-scale publicity and publicity. Through film adaptation, classic literary works have received more attention and recognition in the market, and thus attracted more readers and audiences. On the basis of commercial success, classic works can also be better inherited and continued.

However, there are some challenges and risks in film adaptation. Because of the differences between the original and the film, sometimes the film adaptation may not fully present the complexity and depth of the original. At the same time, the film may deviate from the spirit and core values of the original work due to the consideration of commercialization, leading to declining quality and disappointment of the audience.

Therefore, we need to weigh the scale and method of good adaptation when making film adaptation. The production team should maintain the awe and understanding of the original work, while focusing on creative and artistic performance, to ensure that the film work can both appeal to the audience and faithfully convey the meaning and beauty of the original work. Only on this basis can film adaptation really play a role in promoting and inheriting classical literary works.

#### **4. The Dissemination Effect of Film and Television Adaptation on Classic Works-Taking *Le Comte de Monte-Cristo* as An Example**

##### **4.1. The Basic Overview of the *Le Comte de Monte-Cristo***

*Le Comte de Monte-Cristo* is a famous literary work that originated from the tradition of the French writer Alexandre Dumas and combines elements of romanticism and realism. It not only has profound historical significance, but also has a wide readership<sup>[5]</sup>. *Le Comte de Monte-Cristo*, as a classic work about Christian tradition, also known as *The Count of Monte Cristo*, which is more widely known. This work mainly tells the story of a character named Edmond Dantès who was persecuted during the "

Hundred Days " in the 19th century and forced to deliver letters for the Napoleonic Party. During this process, he constantly sought revenge. The Count of Monte Cristo is the core character of the story, and his story revolves around him<sup>[6]</sup>. Dantès met a priest in prison, who taught him a lot. On the deathbed of the priest, he revealed a shocking secret to Dantès: the treasure was buried on Monte Cristo Island. After escaping from prison, Dantès followed the priest's guidance and successfully discovered the treasure, becoming a wealthy man. In order to conceal his true identity, he impersonated the Count of Monte Cristo. The Count of Monte Cristo repaid the grace of the priest in his own unique way through a series of plans. He successfully punished those who bullied him with his own wisdom and talent. This novel is full of mysterious atmosphere and captivating plot, making it a literary masterpiece worthy of careful consideration. It is not only a novel, but also a profound reflection and exploration. This story tells the process of how the Count of Monte Cristo avenged, with a complete and clear structure, precise and powerful language, and a plot that twists and turns occasionally beyond expectations<sup>[7]</sup>. The dialogue of this character is very witty and flexible, and his story is full of legendary wit and artistic charm<sup>[8]</sup>.

#### **4.2. Significance of Film and Television Adaptation on Classic Works Dissemination**

There is an inseparable connection between film and television and literary works. Literary works provide rich inspiration and imagination for film and television, enabling them to create unique artistic forms. Literature has expanded its dissemination scope, enhanced its influence, and even promoted the innovation of literary concepts and literary styles through film and television. This method not only improves the dissemination speed of literary works, but also brings more reading pleasure to readers. . By adapting a classic work, unique charm can be added to film and television dramas and its profound influence can be used to create a captivating work. Literary dissemination is an indispensable part of the process of literary creation. It is disseminated to more people through film and television media, allowing excellent literary works to be widely accepted and appreciated. This is like a pair of wings, combining literature and art with mass media, allowing works to fly towards a broader world. Literary works have been widely disseminated and promoted through the media of film and TV media. The emergence of film and television works has brought new possibilities to literary works, broadened their audience, and enhanced their social influence. In addition, film and television works also provide promotional opportunities for the shaping of aesthetics and classics in literary works. Through this method, the audience's appreciation and level of film and television works can be improved, and their understanding of national culture can also be enhanced, which has positive significance for inheriting the spirit of national culture. Between film and television works and the audience, the audience is both the viewer and the channel for disseminating information. Audience's interest and demand for literary works are constantly changing, and they express their thoughts and feelings through various means. A classic literary work needs to be widely disseminated in order to be recognized and appreciated by people, and the audience precisely meets the needs of this dissemination. Therefore, through various media, the classic charm displayed in film and television works can also be accepted by the audience. Through this method, film and television works can gain widespread recognition, while literary works can also be disseminated<sup>[9]</sup>.

For audiences in countries that watch this movie, they can more deeply feel the shocking power brought by film and television works. By watching film and television works, they can not only experience the charm of classic literary works, but also consciously promote literary works<sup>[10]</sup>. Literary works provide rich artistic themes for films, which can showcase the charm that words cannot directly convey to the audience through their unique forms of expression.

The revenge scenes in *Le Comte de Monte-Cristo* are reflected around the world, and the cultural and artistic atmosphere they convey is well-known. In the film, the Count of Monte Cristo is a very outstanding character, and the audience will view him with an appreciative eye. At a specific period, viewers can gain a deeper understanding of cultural connotations by watching film and television drama, which is also a way of disseminating literary works, allowing more people to experience the charm of literature through watching film and television drama<sup>[11]</sup>.

#### **5. Conclusion**

Through film and television adaptation, literary works can be disseminated and bring deeper understanding to the audience. Film and television adaptation is of great significance to the dissemination of classic works. Taking the Count of Monte Cristo as an example, the film adaptation can attract more audiences to understand and pay attention to this classic novel. At the same time, through the visual and

sound expression form, the audience can better understand and feel the plot and connotation of the work, and bring new interpretation angles to the work. By adapting literary works into movies or TV series, these works can be disseminated more widely and give the audience a deeper understanding of them. This way not only satisfies the audience's love for the classic literary works, but also brings them a new reading experience. Literary works and film and television adaptations promote each other, and literary works provide rich materials and inspiration, while film and television adaptations are based on the story plot and characters of literary works, which make literary works more widely spread and influence more audiences through means of film and television. In addition, the film and television adaptation of literary works can also enable the audience to feel the plot and connotation of the works more intuitively. Through the form of movies or TV series, the audience can feel the development of the story through the visual and auditory ways, and have a deeper understanding of the characters and emotional ups and downs in the work. At the same time, the film and television adaptation can also enrich and interpret the works with the performance of the actors and the visual expression of the director, so that the audience can feel the charm of the works more vividly. This approach not only adapts to the audience's preferences for classic literary works, but also provides them with a new reading experience. Literary works and film and television adaptations complement each other. Literary works provide rich materials and inspiration for film and television adaptations, while film and television adaptations are based on the story plot and character traits of literary works. Through film and television, literary works can be more widely spread and influence a wider audience.

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