

# Wang Anyi's Writing after her Westbound Journey

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**ABSTRACT.** *Wang Anyi experienced her first trip to the United States in the 1980s, as a result, she plunged into the difficult situation of literary creation with the depressed mood at the end of the century. The paleness and meaninglessness of personal experience seriously affected her psychological mechanism. However after six months of loneliness, she overcame herself. What is admirable is that her self-recognition and personal experience are restructuring, she writes six short stories and four mid-stories during special period of time. After author visit to the United States, Xiao Baozhuang which is the turning point of her literary creation, as a representative work of root-seeking literature, were written by her.*

**KEYWORDS:** *westbound; personal case ;Utopia*

## 1. Introduction

Visiting American Writers in the embarrassing position of developed countries, most of them are first entry into developed countries, this travel has had a considerable impact on their psychology and physiology. At the same time, Chinese writer disintegrated the enlightenment myth of early romanticism in their hearts. While they were shocked by this culture, they found that they could not find their place in the context of western world culture. This paper attempts to take Wang Anyi as an example, a visiting American writer. So I want to reflect on the ideological dilemma of the writers in the 1980, take Utopian poetry as a case. Moreover I want to explain why writer construct her own experience in the period of self-transformation.

## 2. Case analysis

Utopian Poetry is Wang Anyi's feedback on her trip to the west after her return to China. Thus it seems very important to complete the writer's self-consciousness and personality inspection reorganization, it directly opens up her later recognition of the secular. In her previous writings, she was faithful to her real experience and lacked aesthetic care with distance. After her trip to the West, she began to analyze and reflect on her own experience. She tries to find out the reasons for the spiritual dilemma of contemporary writers and explore the way out of this contradictory situation. Therefore, Utopian Poetry can be regarded as Wang Anyi's journey to seek

cultural roots, it is an allegorical summary of her literary career.

Inspired by romantic rationalism, she began her literary creation. But she must faithfully reflect her own emotional experience and pursuit of life, the purpose of doing this is to transcend oneself. So she constantly dispelled idealistic beliefs and heroic myths to examine the status quo. After a true understanding of western modern civilization and culture, she fell into a spiritual entanglement and could not get rid of it. She could only be named "Utopia" in order to comfort the writer's emotional and spiritual dilemma. Zhang Yiwu called Wang Anyi and other contemporary intellectuals writing are post-utopian writing. They always under the dual contradiction of spirit in the post-new period and they also search for the wholeness of human beings has been impacted by commercialization. Meanwhile its own mystery and reproductive ability were weakened. The doubts and puzzles revealed in these texts are compatible with the profound transformation of social discourse as a whole, it's a discovery of secular. The 1980s is indeed the fastest period of China's modernization. Such a social state has fundamentally changed China's social structure, but changed the personal experience of intellectuals themselves.

In this book Wang Anyi is looking for a breakthrough, and the man was there for her during her visit to the United States. She feels that this man can save her from his experience. She found a way out of her personal experience by reviewing the writer. Two writers with the same mother tongue and national cultural identity, and the transformation of personal experience has been completed in the foreign language and cultural environment. Here Wang Anyi writes a post-modern global cultural, which makes people enter a space full of excitement and temptation, and release them through a football match. She said that watching American football is a symbol of happiness, carefree, relaxed and fool. This football match made the narrator know the man and examined him with a feeling of sympathy and compassion. She said "I always pointed out the drawbacks of his thoughts sharply at the most critical moment". Taking the problems in the socialist transitional period as an example, it shows that the sacrifice of mothers has led history astray. She expressed this person's words, deeds and thoughts extremely absurdly. This person has a Quixote-like spirit of crying for the change of the real world and the salvation of idealism. A kind of salvation feeling for saving children makes Wang Anyi not willing to break this man's lofty ideal and watch this symbolic game with helplessness. This made the writer deeply aware of the distance between herself and this person. The heroic pragmatist who saved the children with practical action got the same result as a calm thinker. She knew that the children needed to be saved, but even if action is taken, it is impossible to save them. He waved goodbye to Wang Anyi at the moment of breaking up, which made she extremely sad. Moved by the belief and spirit of the heroic idealist's refusal to defeat. On the other hand, Utopian Poetry expresses writer's respect for the man in the form of remembrance, records the hero's persistent exploration and firm belief in his ideal in the form of poems.

In her writings after the 1990s, most of the heroes portrayed in her works were male, and all of them in her novel are end-road heroes bearing certain historical burdens. In the process of constantly dispelling myths, she seeks a way out of her

own experience. These works have historical positivity and ideological directness. Other works turn the passion of the characters in the novel into the subjective consciousness hidden behind the narrator. There is a big gap between later works such as *Documentary and Fiction* and previous works. The writer's attitude changes from active to passive, her active viewpoint is erased in the earlier period. Writers' view of initiative was erased in the early period. Later stage is the narrator's initiative intervention, so her works are full of the narrator's subjective will.

### 3. Conclusion

Utopian Poetry provides Wang Anyi with a very important opportunity, which not only enables her to re-examine and adjust her spiritual standpoint, face up to the radical idealistic pursuit in the past and the loss and decadence of self-spirit brought about by it, but also contributes to the critical turning point of the writer's creative path. At first, she found that she could do nothing and always kept a certain distance in the face of the modern and commercial world. So she took a wait-and-see attitude to find opportunities for self-breakthrough. The acquaintance with Taiwanese writers turned out to be a turning point. The person she worshiped helped her overcome the troubles that had been haunting her heart for a long time, and helped her rebuild her faith in literature. This poem is not only a generous and passionate ode, but also reflects that in a world full of complex contradictions. By dispelling utopian utterance, contemporary intellectuals achieve the liberation of personal feelings and experience, they can find their own position in the constant reconstruction of ideals.

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