



Analysis of Narrative Structure Performance of Cultural TV Documentaries under the Concept of Storytelling

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ABSTRACT

Cultural TV documentaries can connect the past and present, tradition and modernity, and have rich contemporary value. Therefore, the analysis of the narrative structure of cultural TV documentaries under the concept of storytelling is studied. It elaborates the connotation of storytelling concept and analyzes the narrative characteristics of cultural TV documentaries. It also discusses the strategy of analyzing the narrative structure of cultural TV documentaries based on the concept of storytelling in terms of the deep excavation of the narrative theme and emotional resonance, the clever use of narrative elements and story construction, the precise control of the narrative rhythm and emotional tension. Through the above research, we aim to deeply understand the meaning of culture, show the trajectory of cultural change, and provide theoretical support for the dissemination and development of culture.

Keywords: Storytelling concept; Cultural; Television documentary; Narrative structure; Performance analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Documentary is a kind of movie style to record the real world, which has a crucial role in traditional culture dissemination through authenticity and sociality ^[1]. Cultural TV documentaries include history, ethnicity, architecture, natural landscape and other cultural subjects, which not only record the development of history, but also analyze the cultural connotations in depth, so that the audience can feel the history, appreciate the culture and realize the promotion of culture in the process of watching movies. Cultural TV documentaries have authenticity, artistry and humanity, and are the key to cross-cultural communication. For the endangered cultural heritage, cultural TV documentaries can play the role of protecting and passing on the culture, leaving the true cultural heritage for future generations ^[2]. Through the vivid images and explanations of cultural TV documentaries, viewers can learn a wealth of historical and cultural knowledge and improve their cultural literacy and aesthetic ability in the process of watching movies.

The narrative structure of cultural TV documentaries is divided into linear structure, centerline tandem structure, plate structure, and rambling structure, in which one or more centerlines running through the whole film are taken as the theme, and independent plates are connected with different narrative elements, which can make the content of the documentaries clearer ^[3]. By analyzing the narrative structure of cultural TV documentaries, it can help viewers better understand the content of the documentary, clarify the logical relationship between various parts, and thus gain a deeper understanding of the cultural phenomenon presented. Narrative behavior has a long history, the recounting, telling and interpretation of events can create and spread cultural stories, and subconsciously influence people's consensus memory of society ^[4]. Narratology is constantly developing and improving, and the analysis of the internal structure of culture can emphasize the relationship between narrative and the language of film and television by considering literature as a symbol of the internal law of narrative. Therefore, under the concept of storytelling, this paper analyzes the performance of narrative structure of cultural TV documentaries, which can effectively improve the effect of cultural communication.

1 THE CONNOTATIONS OF THE CONCEPT OF STORYTELLING

Culture is usually related to history, and cultural documentaries are based on the perspective of culture, scrutinizing history and achieving the purpose of cultural dissemination. The concept of storytelling is a process of artistic processing on real events, and a good story is often able to penetrate into people's hearts, touch their heartstrings, and make them resonate emotionally^[5]. This resonance not only enhances the impact of the story, but also makes it easier for the viewer or listener to accept and remember the message or value conveyed by the story. The concept of storytelling emphasizes conveying information or knowledge in entertainment, so that viewers or listeners can learn or be inspired while enjoying the story. The core theme of the story is identified as the soul of the story, and the inner struggles of the characters, the environment, social pressures and other conflicts and obstacles are introduced to make the story tense and attractive. The story is then placed in a specific social context to reflect social phenomena and issues. According to the conflict and the social background, design the climax and the twist of the story, so that the development of the story is full of changes. At the same time, each character is given a complex personality, motivation and background, so that they are not just accessories to the story, but key forces that drive the story forward. Through detailed scene depictions, readers or viewers are brought into the world of the story^[6]. This form of storytelling documentary not only improves the efficiency of information transmission, but also makes the viewing process more vivid and interesting. In teaching and documentary creation, turning boring knowledge or historical events into fascinating stories through storytelling can stimulate the audience's interest and curiosity in the corresponding stories and attract them to understand the cultural background of the stories, thus realizing the purpose of cultural transmission and inheritance.

2 NARRATIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF CULTURAL TV DOCUMENTARIES

Cultural documentaries emphasize authenticity and objectivity. They record real events, characters and scenes, avoiding fiction and exaggeration. Narrative rhythm and suspense setting are important narrative features of cultural TV documentaries. Narrative rhythm is reasonably controlled, and suspense and twists are set up to attract viewers' interest^[7]. In the visual presentation and aesthetic pursuits, attention is paid to picture composition, color matching and lens use to enhance the visual aesthetics. The title of the film, which evaluates the symbolic meaning of cultural relics in short words, sets up suspense in the beginning of the film, and its meaning is understood through the documentary narration. The titles of "How to Speak of This Painting", "Banana Yin Striking Figure: The Mom Who Rides the Wind and Waves", and "The Statue of Prince of Guo Yunli: Prince of Guo's Online Live Streaming Even Turned Over the Car" are more likely to arouse the attention of the audience. etc., which are more likely to arouse the audience's curiosity. The narrative technique of the documentary is shown in Figure 1 below.

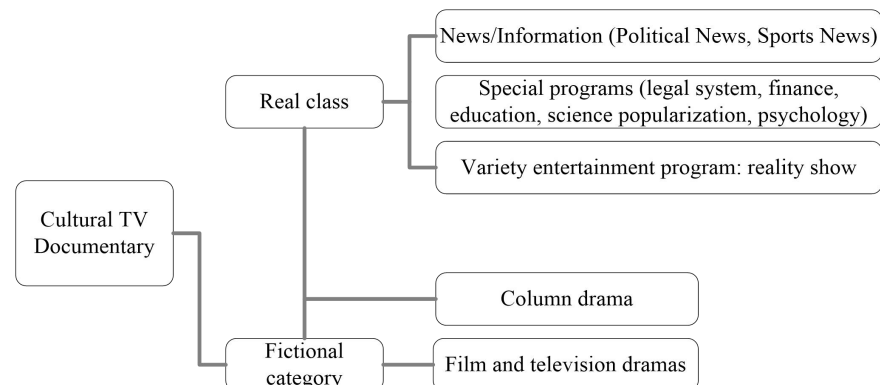


Figure 1 Schematic diagram of the narrative techniques of the documentary

As shown in Figure 1, among the features of authenticity, "China on the Tongue" truly shows the culinary culture of different parts of China through on-the-spot filming and interviews. "I Repair Relics in the Forbidden City" records the work and life of the restorers of cultural relics, showing their love and inheritance of traditional culture. Through telling the stories of historical events and characters, "Hexi Corridor" sets up several suspenseful twists and turns to make the audience more engaged^[8]. "Daming Palace" shows the splendor and magnificence of the imperial palace of the Tang Dynasty through the use of exquisite images and shots. The use of first-person, third-person and other narrative perspectives enriches the narrative level. "If National Treasures Could Talk" shows the historical and cultural value of national treasures through the perspective of national treasures and narration. Cultural documentaries emphasize emotional resonance and value transmission, and "China in the Countryside" conveys values such as hard work, kindness and solidarity through recording rural life and character stories, which resonates with the audience.

3 ANALYTICAL STRATEGIES FOR ANALYZING THE NARRATIVE STRUCTURE PERFORMANCE OF CULTURAL TV DOCUMENTARIES BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF STORYTELLING

3.1 The depth of the excavation and the emotional resonance of the narrative theme

Emotional resonance is an important bridge between viewers and documentaries. When viewers have emotional resonance with the stories and characters in documentaries, they will be more easily substituting into the stories and sharing the same fate

with the characters, so as to understand the stories and characters more deeply. Through the in-depth exploration of the theme and the rendering of emotions, the documentary can build a more compact and fascinating plot, so that the audience will be more engaged in watching the program ^[9]. The narrative themes are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Table of Narrative Themes

| Narrative theme | Deep excavation points | Emotional resonance point |
|--|--|--|
| The Inheritance and Development of Traditional Culture | Traditional cultural elements | Respect and pride in traditional culture |
| | The Story and Persistence of Cultural Inheritors | Respect and emotion towards cultural inheritors |
| | The collision and fusion of modernity and tradition | Reflections and Reflections on the Vitality of Culture |
| The unique charm of regional culture | Regional characteristic elements | Identification and love for regional culture |
| | The close connection between regional culture and residents' lives | Curiosity and longing for regional characteristics |
| | The historical evolution of regional culture | Reflections on the Historical Changes in the Region |
| Cultural exchange and integration | Comparison of stories from different cultural backgrounds | Understanding and Respecting Cultural Diversity |
| | Presentation of cultural exchange activities | Expectations and Joy for Cultural Exchange |
| | The results and impacts of cultural integration | Reflection and Acceptance of Cultural Integration |

As shown in Table 1, at the early stage of the creation of cultural documentaries, the core theme of the story is clearly defined, which is the soul of the whole story, and is related to human nature, family, growth, friendship, love and social phenomena. Analyze the theme in multiple dimensions, and explore its connotation, extension and connection with the background of the times and social phenomena. This helps to deepen the understanding of the theme and lays the foundation for the richness of the story. The creators have a deep understanding and feeling of the characters and the plot, so that they can accurately capture and express their emotions. Emotions are conveyed to the audience through language, action, expression and other means ^[10]. By digging deep into the narrative theme, cultural TV documentaries can reveal more profound ideological connotations, so that viewers can be enlightened and sublimated while enjoying the program. This depth of thought is an important symbol that differentiates documentaries from other entertainment programs, and is also an important factor that attracts viewers. Cultural documentaries can show more rich cultural connotation and artistic expression, so that the audience in the process of enjoying the program, feel the charm and power of art. When the audience resonates with the theme of the documentary, they will be more willing to share and spread the information, thus expanding the scope and influence of the documentary.

3.2 The skillful use of narrative elements and story building

In cultural TV documentaries, the skillful use of narrative elements and story construction is the key to enhance the attractiveness and influence of the work. Among the visual elements, images are highly symbolic and expressive, and can convey profound cultural connotations and emotional colors. The use of color, light and shadow can create different atmospheres and moods, and enhance the visual effect and infectious force of the documentary. Among the auditory elements, human voices, such as voice-over, narration and interviews, can supplement the information in the picture and guide the audience to understand the theme and content of the documentary ^[11]. Natural sounds, such as wind, water and birdsong, can enhance the realism and sense of immersion in the picture and make the audience feel more immersed in the cultural phenomenon. Music is one of the indispensable narrative elements in cultural documentaries, creating a unique cultural atmosphere and emotional tone through melody, rhythm and timbre. Among the textual and linguistic elements, in cultural documentaries, subtitles contain a lot of cultural knowledge and historical background information, which is an important way for viewers to understand cultural phenomena. The language style of narration and commentary matches the overall style of cultural documentaries, which can enhance the audience's emotional experience and aesthetic feeling. The narrative elements are shown in Figure 2 below.

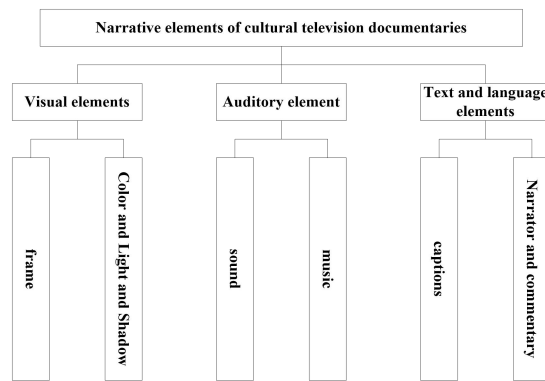


Figure 2 Narrative element analysis chart

As shown in Figure 2, narrative elements include characters, plot, background, conflict, theme, etc. The core characters in the story, their character, motivation, behavior and growth trajectory are the key to the development of the story. Plot is the development of the story, including the beginning, development, climax and end, which is the driving force for the story to move forward. Setting is the time, place and social environment in which the story takes place, providing the stage and background for the characters and plot ^[12]. Conflict is the contradiction or antagonism in a story, which is the key to the development of the plot and the growth of the characters. Theme is the central idea or message of the story, which runs throughout and guides the reader or viewer's thinking. In addition, subtitle, as a kind of text symbol, plays an auxiliary role of emphasizing and explaining in the video narrative. The language of the camera can accurately and objectively record what happens in front of it. Through the lens to capture and present cultural phenomena, historical sites, people's activities, etc., so that the audience intuitively feel the charm of culture. The choice and use of music matches the theme and content of the documentary, and can enhance the audience's emotional resonance and aesthetic experience. Subtitles can supplement the information of picture and sound, and help viewers better understand the content of the documentary. In terms of story construction, the selection and summarization of contradictions and conflicts in cultural phenomena can form an objective and complete plot. Focusing on the ups and downs, cause and effect, and twists and turns of the plot, the viewers will have a strong sense of immersion and emotional resonance in the process of watching. Through telling the experiences and stories of the characters, it shows the diversity and richness of culture. When portraying the characters, it focuses on digging out the contradictions and emotional conflicts in their lives, focusing on the small parts and cutting in from the perspective of the common people. Through characterization and storytelling, viewers are guided to think deeply about the social and historical background behind cultural phenomena. Choose an appropriate narrative structure according to the theme and content of the documentary ^[13]. Linear narrative structure can clearly present the development of the cultural phenomenon; block narrative structure can liberate the limitations of traditional documentaries in terms of narrative time and space, so that viewers can have more room for imagination and re-creation during the process of watching. Through the flexible use of different narrative structures, documentaries become more vivid, interesting and fascinating.

3.3 Precise control of narrative rhythm and emotional tension

Narrative rhythm refers to the alternation of speed, tension and relief of the plot, events and turning points in the unfolding process of a story. It is similar to the beat in music, which creates a specific atmosphere and emotional effect through changes in speed and intensity. Changes in narrative rhythm are often accompanied by emotional fluctuations ^[14]. When the pace of the story speeds up and the plot is tense, the audience's emotions will also be tense; and when the pace slows down and the plot becomes soothing, the audience's emotions will also relax accordingly. This emotional fluctuation makes the audience more involved in the story and empathize with the characters. The analysis of narrative rhythm performance is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Narrative rhythm analysis table

| Narrative stage | Narrative rhythm characteristics | Methods for creating emotional tension | Desired result |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Introduction at the beginning | Slow and captivating | Set suspense or ask questions | Attract audience attention and stimulate curiosity |
| Background preparation | Smooth and detailed | Present background information and establish emotional foundation | To lay the groundwork for the subsequent plot and enhance the audience's sense of immersion |
| Conflict escalation | Accelerate, tense and exciting | Highlight contradictions and conflicts, showcase challenges and difficulties | Enhance emotional tension and trigger audience tension |
| one climax after another | Fast and frequent orgasms | Showcasing key events and intensifying conflicts | Reaching an emotional climax that resonates strongly with the audience |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| Transformation and Reflection | Slow down, leave room | Present a turning point and guide the audience to think | Give the audience breathing space and trigger deep thinking |
| Ending with finale | Stable and meaningful | Solve problems and summarize emotions | Leave a deep impression and enhance overall emotional value |

As shown in Table 2, documentaries flexibly adjust the pace according to the needs of plot development in the narrative process. The rhythm is accelerated in the tense and exciting plots, and slowed down in the plots that require the audience to think and reflect. By flexibly adjusting the rhythm, the audience's emotional involvement and understanding can be better guided. In terms of emotional guidance, through suspense, questions, conflicts and other means to stimulate the audience's curiosity, tension and empathy^[15]. At the same time, through the guidance of turning points and reflections, the audience can have deeper thoughts and understanding of the story and characters. In terms of emotional coherence, through the development of the plot and the performance of the characters, the audience's emotions rise and fall with the development of the story. By summarizing and sublimating the emotions, the audience will have a deep impression and feeling of the documentary.

4 CONCLUSION

In recent years, cultural TV documentaries, as a unique form of media, have played an important role in the inheritance of civilization and the promotion of culture. With the increase in the variety of documentaries, the traditional narrative approach has failed to meet the needs of modern audiences. Therefore, under the concept of storytelling, this paper studies the topic of analyzing the narrative structure of cultural TV documentaries. From the narrative theme, narrative elements, narrative rhythm and other aspects, it enhances the viewability and entertainment of the documentary, deepens the audience's understanding and feeling of cultural connotation, and promotes the inheritance and innovation of culture. Through storytelling, cultural TV documentaries cross the boundaries of time and space, allowing viewers to enjoy the audio-visual feast while deeply appreciating the charm and value of culture.

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