

# Comparison of the Image of the Protagonist in *To Live and Gone with the Wind* from the Perspective of the Community

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## Abstract

The community of human destiny is an important category of contemporary Chinese Marxism and Marxism in the 21st century, and it is the practical wisdom of the Communist Party of China in the new era to govern the country and promote the reform of the world governance system. In the field of literature, the sense of community can also shine its light. In the two famous novels, *To Live and Gone With the Wind*, The two protagonists of different nationalities and genders have similar life choices and psychological changes in the development of the story. Through the comparison of the images of the two protagonists from the perspective of the community, this paper highlights the responsibility and obligation of all mankind as a whole to work together to prevent disasters and pursue a better life.

## Keywords

*To Live, Gone with the Wind; The Community.*

## 1. Introduction

There is a note in *Ode to the Former Red Cliff*: "Sending mayflies to heaven and earth is a drop in the sea. I mourn for a moment of my life, envy the infinite Yangtze River." This poem expresses that a person's life, rich or poor, is actually very short. But the good news is that the torch of human life is passed down from generation to generation. As a whole, human beings can last as long as the Yangtze River. This is in line with the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind. [1] Regardless of nationality, status, status or other external conditions, the common aspiration of all human beings is to have a happy and beautiful life. But at the same time, in the face of the ever-changing world, human beings also have the same helplessness. When pestilence, war and other disasters break out, the common people suffer no matter whether they defeat the plague or coexist with the epidemic, whether they win or lose in the war. Countless middle class people are forced back into poverty, the rich become indebted overnight, and countless families are broken by the loss of family members. Examples of this reality can also be found in literary works: Fu Gui, the protagonist in Chinese writer Yu Hua's *To Live*, and Scarlett, the protagonist in Western writer Margaret's masterpiece *Gone With the Wind*, both experienced the ups and downs of life in the difficult environment of war, and both had to change from innocence and irresponsibility to maturity and tolerance due to changes in the environment. Both Scarlett and Scarlett went through the war and the death of their relatives one after another. In the end, only an old cow accompanied Fu Gui, while only Tara Manor was left behind for Scarlett. Their similar process of change reflects the words of Yu Hua, "They live in different countries, experience different times, belong to different nationalities and different cultures, have different skin colors and different hobbies, but sometimes they seem to be the same person. This is because all the differences cannot resist the one basic common denominator, the common denominator of human beings. Human experience and desire, as well as imagination and understanding, will cancel all the different boundaries, and will make a person feel his own destiny from the experience of others, as if he sees his own image in different mirrors "[2]. People have similar vulnerability and tenacity, because all

human beings belong to the same community, and these two works that reflect the human community can also make us have endless aftertaste and thinking.

## 2. Similar Capricious Extravagance of the Protagonists

It is easy to get the next similar capricious extravagance In both *To Live* and *Gone with the Wind*, the protagonist's life course is a high beginning and a low end. In *Gone With the Wind*, Scarlett is a carefree girl at the beginning of the story. She has lived a happy life in a well-off family. The love and protection of the people around her make her never see the cruel side of life, thus keeping her innocent. She yearned for freedom but also capricious, in her teenage brain is full of love produced by vanity, she thinks highly of herself, that the men around her will be fascinated by her, and the real life of course not everything is satisfactory. When courageously pursuing ASHLEY, she tried her best and was even willing to elope for him, but she was still refused by ASHLEY. The blow of being rejected was like a storm for Scarlett, a spoiled girl. She felt the humiliation and anger she had never felt before in her heart, so she willfully made a decision that she wanted to get married and marry a person she did not know, let alone love. Naive self of course, she does not know what marriage is, nor does she know that after marriage she will become an independent individual, shoulder to carry a variety of responsibilities. The girl's freewheeling life will not exist forever, after willfully squandering the youth and carefree, she will eventually need to use the delicate hands that have not been stained by the world to bear the pressure. Where she comes from can't be determined by her, but her willful decisions about life events will bring about a major turning point in her life. In Yu Hua's *To Live*, Fu Gui's experience is very similar to Scarlett's. Just as the name says, Fu Gui is a blessed man, born to a rich family's young master. He does not need to experience failure, endure insults, swallow tears and struggle to own money and real estate. However, under favorable conditions, he recklessly enjoys and squanders his wealth and honor until his wealth is exhausted and his wealth is gone. He was illiterate and addicted to gambling. He thought that as long as he gambled, he could win back more than one hundred mu of land that his father had corrupted and glorify his ancestors. After gambling for a long time, Fu Gui lost his family business and became a poor man who had to try his best to earn a living.

In the comparison of these two works, it is not difficult to find that two people of different nationalities and genders have similar life choices in the development of the story, in the face of a good life, they have a willful and irresponsible attitude towards life. For this phenomenon, we can start from the psychological theory of consciousness of Vygotsky, a Soviet psychologist, and analyze the structure of community consciousness from a psychological perspective. Vygotsky held that "the proposal and solution of consciousness problem in psychology should be based on the understanding that consciousness is the interaction, reflection and mutual stimulation of various reflex systems. What is conscious is that which is transmitted as a stimulus to other systems and in which a response is evoked. Consciousness is always an echo, a responsive mechanism " [3]. According to this mechanism, community consciousness is also the result of the interaction of various reflex systems, "a responsive mechanism", and this objective fact reflects the subjective agency in the minds of the members of the community, and similar subjective agency reflects the existence of the community.

## 3. The Same Radical Change of the Protagonists in the War

When the war hit, the same radical change occurred After Scarlett's marriage, the Civil War broke out, and countless lives were instantly taken away in the brutal war. Scarlett's husband Charles is killed in the war, so Scarlett needs to abide by the rules of widowhood. According to the rules, she must cover herself in black gauze and remain silent, and there must be no entertainment to show the despair a widow must feel after her husband's death. This goes

against Scarlett's original self-determined self, and Scarlett is not sad about her husband's death, because she is preoccupied with ASHLEY. When ASHLEY, Scarlett's lover, returned safely from the war, Scarlett was full of joy and proposed to escape from the war with ASHLEY. ASHLEY rejects her selfish idea of violating etiquette and irresponsibility, and entrusts the pregnant Melanie to her, hoping that she can take good care of Melanie and the unborn child. Since childhood has been protected, the Scarlett of my own way now has to take care of a pregnant rival, Scarlett heart is naturally ten thousand arrows through the heart. At the same time, the worsening of the war makes everyone's heart full of panic, "war is terrible and absurd." War is a nightmare, it makes people lose their reason and humanity " [4]. Terrified, there are countless people in order to escape the terrible war have fled, but Scarlett because of the promise and ASHLEY and stick to Melanie's side, and even in difficult conditions for Melanie's delivery. At this time Scarlett is no longer that only consider their innocent world of the little girl, life changes to wake up the happy Scarlett, her mother died, father crazy, two sisters were seriously ill in bed, and once lovely ASHLEY now is in failure and weak. The warm family is broken, the father who once let her have no worries about food and clothing can no longer become her dependence, the man who she admired shows light of responsibility and does not seek progress. The ruthless change makes Scarlett recognize the reality and become mature, she realizes that in the troubled world, she can no longer rely on anyone. At the end of the story, after Scarlett's husband Rhett left her because of her daughter's death, Scarlett said blankly, "Let's leave it to tomorrow... Home, I want to go home. I'll find a way to get him back..." After all the changes, Scarlett is no longer the young girl who was easily beaten down.

In *To Live*, Fu Gui became destitute because he gambled away his family business, so his father was mad, and then Fu Gui was caught as a strong man by the Kuomintang on the way to cure his mother. In the army, Fu Gui, who had planned to be a deserter at first, was too scared to run away when he saw the deserter being shot dead. Later, Fu Gui escaped death from the army and is no longer the rich boy he was. His mind is full of his family. However, when he returned home, disaster and pain did not stop to hit him. His wife was bedridden with chondrosis and died of the pain. His son died because he had the same blood type as the county magistrate's wife, drawing too much blood in the process of saving her; Fu Gui's daughter Fengxia was happy after her marriage, but she died of hemorrhaging in the process of giving birth. The son-in-law is a porter, but because of the crane went wrong, was alive by two rows of cement plate clamping death; Grandson Bitter Root with Fu Gui back to the countryside, extreme poverty environment let Bitter Root serious malnutrition, Fu Gui cook beans for him to eat, but did not think Bitter Root was supported to death because of overeating. Fu Gui from a fopper into a Stoic father, grandfather love grandson, and finally became silent, only with an old cow accompanied by the old farmer. The novel ends with the following description: "The smoke from the cooking stove rises up from the roof of the farmhouse, disperses in the rosy sky, and then disappears. The voice of a woman Shouting a child one after another, a man carrying a bucket of dung passed by me, the carrying pole creaked all the way to the past, slowly, the field tended to calm, the field appeared fuzzy, the sunset gradually receded. I knew that dusk was imminent and fleeting, and night was falling from the sky. I saw the vast land bare its sturdy breast, which was the gesture of calling, just as women call their children, and the land calls the night." Fu Gui's mood no longer impetuous, in the face of bleak life, he has been able to calm down.

#### 4. Conclusion

The revelation brought by the similar changes of characters in the perspective of the community the characters of Scarlett and Fu Gui have undergone extremely similar changes after the outbreak of the war and the turmoil of the country. Suffering makes them have to grow up, just like a snake shedding its skin. In order to survive, they can only painfully change into

something completely different from before. After the change, they are mature and responsible, no longer as capricious as before, but do people have to endure such great pain in their growth? Each person's character is different, but when the war comes, the extreme painful environment makes them lose their original self, everyone is becoming numb, just want to survive. These two similar characters created by authors of different nationalities and genders just show that the fate of human beings is so similar that it does not vary according to different cultures and nationalities. The comparison of the images of the protagonists can also serve as a warning to the reality. The painful experiences of Scarlett and Fu Gui show that everyone has to take responsibility for his own life, and the careless handling of major life events will inevitably destroy the beauty that was easily obtained before. Individuals are responsible for their own lives just like all human beings are responsible for the ecological environment. No matter how beautiful the environment is, it is not inexhaustible, but can not withstand wanton destruction. When the environment is seriously damaged, it is useless to regret it. When the ecological conditions are rich, we are always used to not cherish what nature gives us, crazy to obtain the deterioration of the environment. "Especially after World War II, in the process of transforming nature, the destruction of the environment has reached a very bad degree: air, land, rivers, oceans, etc., are all subject to dangerous and even fatal pollution". However, human beings' unrestrained selfish and destructive behaviors will eventually bear serious consequences. In the science fiction work "Hello -- Come Out" by Xing Xinyi, there is a story like this: One day, human beings accidentally found a hole that could hold an infinite amount of things, so they threw sundries and garbage into the hole. But one day, all the things that were thrown into the hole fell from the air, and then people realized that all the garbage thrown into the hole would be returned to human beings sooner or later. Humanity as a whole has the responsibility and obligation to use its own ability to make the world a better place. Raymond Williams argues that "a good community, a living culture, promotes a sense of common need, not only provides space for it, but encourages all people to work towards it". The world is not isolated. Because of the existence of the human community, if we can call for the formulation of a corresponding international system, form policies and regulations with strong targets, clear goals and effective measures, and then strengthen the awareness of protecting the natural ecological environment of all countries in the world, then all countries will voluntarily and consciously put into practice their long-cherished wish of strengthening global environmental protection and building a beautiful homeland of harmonious coexistence between man and nature, and do their best to defuse the global crisis brought about by ecological and environmental risks, so as to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind worldwide.

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