

Analysis of black comedy elements in "The Annual Meeting Must Not Stop"

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Abstract

"The Annual Meeting Must Go On" is one of the representatives of contemporary literary works. By subverting traditional annual meeting customs and ingeniously integrating elements of black humor, the work reveals deep-seated social realities and conflicts of human nature behind the laughter. Starting from the exploration of the definition of black humor, the article digs into the artistic expression of black humor in "The Annual Meeting Must Go On" by summarizing and comparing similar narrative techniques in various literary works, such as the clever use of dialogue, prominent contrasts in setting scenes, and extreme characterization of characters. Through in-depth investigation, the study validates the unique artistic charm and profound social significance of black humor as a literary narrative technique in shaping a dark worldview and revealing deeper meanings.

Keywords

Black Humor; Social Critique; Artistic Expression; Interpersonal Relationships; Cultural Deconstruction.

1. Introduction

1.1. Research background

The black humor elements in "The Annual Meeting Must Go On" are essential to explore within the cultural and social context in which the work is situated. The work was created in a period of social transition where people faced rapidly changing lifestyles and values, leading to psychological tensions in individuals adapting to these changes. Against this backdrop, "The Annual Meeting Must Go On" uniquely uses black humor as a cultural expression to reveal the sense of powerlessness and mockery of reality that humans face in times of life's hardships.

One important research perspective is that the work uses exaggeration and irony to reveal underlying social issues. Firstly, the author exposes the widening social injustices and individual alienation within social mechanisms through dialogues, conflicts between characters, and unexpected plot twists. Secondly, through the detailed depiction of absurd situations, the work triggers not only laughter but also resonance and introspection on real-life hardships. Thirdly, the black humor in the work serves not only for entertainment but also carries the author's exploration of human nature and critique of societal realities.

From a literary technique perspective, black humor is achieved through specific narrative skills. Firstly, the work highlights the humorous aspects of character traits and ironic circumstances through exaggerated and satirical characterizations. Secondly, unexpected plot developments and twists create a surprising punchline that is both entertaining and thought-provoking. Thirdly, through subtle details like witty language and starkly contrasting behaviors, a seemingly normal yet distorted fantasy world is constructed, where the audience experiences a mix of painful and comedic reflections on life's essence.

After the initial exploration of the black humor elements in "The Annual Meeting Must Go On," the multifaceted nature and profound impact of this humor technique become apparent. Firstly, through a detailed examination of black humor, various interpretive layers are revealed within the work. Secondly, this unique humor style enhances the artistic charm of the work and provides a distinctive perspective on modern individuals' mental states and inner worlds. Thirdly, while audiences enjoy the comedic effects of the work, they can also engage in critical reflections on societal phenomena, forming a unique aesthetic experience.

In conclusion, the black humor elements in "The Annual Meeting Must Go On" present a multidimensional research topic that includes sharp reflections on real social issues, profound explorations of human nature, and innovative explorations of literary expressions. A comprehensive understanding of the research background not only lays the foundation for revealing the work's deeper meanings but also provides a solid starting point for exploring its importance and impact in the literary and socio-cultural fields. In the forthcoming research, we will analyze in detail the manifestations of black humor in the work and the deep-seated themes conveyed, aiming to provide a more comprehensive and profound perspective on understanding this cultural phenomenon.

1.2. Research content

This article focuses on the black humor elements in the work "The Annual Meeting Must Go On" and the social significance behind them. Black humor, as a unique artistic expression, often contains satire and humor in uncomfortable, pessimistic, or even terrifying environments or situations, showing a deep reflection on reality. "The Annual Meeting Must Go On" has attracted widespread attention and discussion with its unique artistic style that combines exaggeration and satire. The research work of this article consists of the following parts:

- (1) Explore the origin, characteristics, and application of black humor in literature and film.
- (2) Analyze the plot of the drama "The Show Must Go On" and give a detailed analysis of the events and character development in the play.
- (3) Delve into the black humor elements in the work, analyze how these elements permeate the plot development, and provoke audience thinking.
- (4) Explore the reflection of black humor on contemporary society, and its role in critiquing reality and influencing perceptions.

Anticipating the future development trends and social value of the black humor elements in the film "The Annual Meeting Must Go On".

The chapter arrangement of this article is as follows:

Chapter One Introduction mainly introduces the origin and development of black humor, as well as its application in modern literature and film works; and explains the selection reasons and research significance of "The Annual Meeting Can't Stop". Chapter Two is the theoretical basis of black humor, detailing the definition, characteristics, and aesthetic value of black humor. Chapter Three provides a brief analysis of the plot of "The Annual Meeting Can't Stop", interpreting the use of black humor in the behaviors of various characters and plot settings. Chapter Four delves into the specific expressions of black humor in "The Annual Meeting Can't Stop", revealing the deeper meaning behind the humor through the analysis of prominent scenes and dialogues in the film. Chapter Five elaborates on the social significance of black humor in "The Annual Meeting Can't Stop", exploring its positive role in exploring reality and revealing contradictions. Chapter Six summarizes and looks ahead, analyzing and predicting the possible trends of black humor in future film creation and social development.

After further exploration of the research content, building on the analysis of the theory of black humor, this paper focuses specifically on how the characters in the play reflect the anxiety and helplessness of contemporary society beneath the surface of a lively and festive annual

gathering. Through the subtle changes in the characters' facial expressions, the puns in their dialogues, and the dramatic plot settings, this style is vividly displayed in "The Annual Party Must Go On." While the film is wrapped in a light-hearted and humorous exterior, it conveys sharp social criticism and self-reflection. Through such literature, this paper aims to reveal the value of black humor in literary and artistic creation and its ability to inspire audience members' reflective thinking, thereby promoting the diversified development of social culture. Combining specific textual analysis and social context, this article not only promotes a deep understanding of the artistic attributes of "The Show Must Go On", but also helps to recognize and evaluate the profound influence of black humor as a cultural phenomenon. Through analysis, it prompts readers to appreciate the artistic enjoyment brought by black humor, while also reflecting on the social truth it contains.

2. The Connotation and Analysis of Black Humor Style

2.1. Definition and Features of Black Humor

The exploration of the dark humor elements in "The Annual Meeting Must Go On" cannot be separated from the definition and characteristics of dark humor itself. Wan Xi mentioned in "Analyzing the Narrative Techniques of Dark Humor Works in English and American Literature"[13] that dark humor is a kind of humor that expresses individuals' feelings of powerlessness and resistance when facing war, social unrest, and technological change by adding elements of horror and madness. Dark humor challenges the boundaries of traditional humor, using absurd and exaggerated forms to display the pain in life, tearing apart the veil of reality through comedic techniques, revealing the despair and absurdity behind it.

In "The Show Must Go On", black humor is not just simple jokes, it is a key element in the development of the plot and the shaping of the characters. By creating an appropriate extreme situation and arranging unexpected plot twists, black humor makes the characters' actions appear more exaggerated yet realistic, forming a kind of bittersweet cognitive experience. According to Wang Xiaoling[9], a major characteristic of black humor is its distinct desolate effect compared to traditional humor, implying despair, pain, and fear, allowing viewers to feel an inexplicable bitterness and awkwardness amidst the pleasant laughter.

In addition, black humor in "The Annual Meeting Can't Stop" reflects modern people's insights into interpersonal relationships, workplace culture, and life values in its unique way. It constantly oscillates between comedy and tragedy, reason and absurdity, inspiring people and triggering deep emotional resonance inadvertently. "Interpreting the Artistic Features of Black Humor in White Teeth"[4] emphasizes that it is precisely the humorous handling of sharp social issues and the audience's ability to identify the absurd combinations around them that achieve the unique artistic charm of black humor.

Overall, black comedy provides a unique lens to portray societal realities in "The Annual Meeting Can't Stop", wrapping cold social commentary in decorative laughter. It is through this unsettlingly sarcastic approach to the current situation that a deep theatrical platform is constructed, allowing people to find a comedic release in a stifling atmosphere while also prompting deep reflection on their own circumstances.

2.2. The application of black humor in literary works.

The application of black humor in literary works witnesses how authors use unique narrative strategies to explore social phenomena, challenge traditional notions, and stimulate readers' thinking. By skillfully using exaggerated characterizations and constructing absurd and realistic conflicts in situational settings, black humor becomes a form of expression reflecting the sense of powerlessness and loss deep within the human heart. In "The Conference Can't Stop," this technique is used to the fullest extent, not limited to just simple jokes, but also

pushing black humor to a new height through techniques of contrast, exaggeration, and reversal. By extreme shaping of character behavior and incorporating provocative dialogues, the work continuously challenges the audience's moral bottom line and aesthetic habits, creating a contradictory and chaotic humorous atmosphere. Like Vonnegut's [7] works, through creating a character ensemble that is both funny and thought-provoking, the work covers its critical and thoughtful depth with a surface of humor. Additionally, through the clever use of language including irony, humor, and exaggeration, a barrier opposed to traditional values and social dogmatism is constructed in "The Conference Can't Stop." By setting a series of vividly contrasting scenes, it vividly displays the theme and deep meanings of the work. In this regard, the interpretation and exploration of absurd phenomena in modern life is no less similar to the ruthless exposure of distorted and contradictory cultural expectations mentioned in "White Teeth." Furthermore, another feature of black humor is its ability to promote the formation of cultural critical awareness, as described in "An Interpretation of the Artistic Features of Black Humor in White Teeth," where exaggerated techniques are used to depict racial issues and immigrant dilemmas, emphasizing the cultural barriers and conflicts. This is demonstrated in "The Conference Can't Stop," where with the collision of cultural differences and social customs, the audience's resonance with the characters' predicaments is strengthened, sparking broader social reflections. In this work, the application of black humor is no longer just a narrative tool, but has become a powerful means to deeply examine social culture and interpersonal relationships. Like a magnifying glass, black humor allows the audience to insightfully view the complexities and various shades of life and human nature.

2.3. The association between black humor and social psychology.

As a special literary style, black humor has been widely studied for its connection with social psychology. In the work "Year-end Party Can't Stop", black humor is not only used as a narrative technique, but also deeply reveals the complexity of social psychology in alienation, conflict, and resistance to reality. The reason why black humor can touch readers' hearts and trigger contemplation is because of its extraordinary expression form, which constructs a unique psychological resonance in the text. Specifically, through exaggerated descriptions of social phenomena, black humor reflects the suffocation and powerlessness that people face in the real world, making the seemingly absurd humor full of profound interpretations and criticisms of social psychology.

In the analysis of the association between black humor and social psychology, I found that this form of humor is often used to deal with stress and contradictions, and in a seemingly frivolous way, discusses social issues such as discrimination, alienation, and others. "The Annual Meeting Can't Stop" uses the annual meeting as a carrier to magnify the helplessness in work, the complexity of interpersonal relationships, and the multiple facets of human nature, presenting them in a dramatic way, while also incorporating irony and self-deprecation. Through the narrative of a series of social psychological issues, the director leads to the characters' actions becoming more absurd and disoriented when facing repression and challenges, deepening the artistic effect of black humor in the work.

From the perspective of social psychology, the black humor in "The Annual Meeting Must Go On" exposes the individual's state of isolation within the collective, and the tense relationship with social roles. Due to the rapid changes in society and the mismatch of personal emotional needs, contemporary individuals are in a state of normal social psychological conflict. Black humor provides a way to release this conflict, transforming the gap between social role expectations and individual real life experiences into content that can be accepted and even entertained by the public through ironic representations of painful experiences. Similar situations are presented in a distorted social mirror in the performance, where the audience

feels a psychological release in the laughter and a profound criticism and reflection on the current social situation.

In summary, dark humor is closely related to social psychology, not only because it can reflect social attitudes, but also because it showcases the psychological reactions of individuals under the pressure of modern society. "The Annual Meeting Can't Stop" accurately captures this point, making dark humor a powerful tool to reach the depths of the audience's emotions and stimulate social reflection.

3. The embodiment of black humor in "The Annual Meeting Cannot Stop"

3.1. Language and Dark Humor in Dialogue

In "The Annual Meeting Must Go On," the essence of black humor is pervaded with language and dialogue, and the author skillfully embeds double entendre and irony in everyday language. The dialogues between characters in the film are often filled with obvious sarcasm and exaggeration, implying both the exposure of the workplace ecosystem and the helplessness outcry of individuals under collective pressure. Such language expression highlights the absurdity and contradictions of modern life revealed by black humor. Whether it is the absurd demands of supervisors on employees or the ironic compliments between colleagues, humor and sadness are powerfully interwoven, showing the psychological struggles and resistance of individuals in extreme environments. The illogical enthusiasm that characters show towards their work reflects the fierce competition and false appearances in the real workplace. This kind of enthusiasm is usually expressed through exaggerated language and behavior, which is both a direct manifestation of employees' powerless situation and a silent mockery of their unreachable professional ideals, reflecting the society's neglect and destruction of individual values. In addition, the black humor in the dialogue also inadvertently dissolves the tense atmosphere, transforming into a form of critical cultural solace, allowing the audience to perceive profound meanings in laughter and experience the contradictions and struggles of individuals within a collectivist framework.

3.2. Dark humor in the plot setting

In "The Annual Meeting Must Go On", the plot is ingeniously infused with elements of black humor, creating a strong sense of dramatic conflict and social satire. The play shapes a scene of an annual meeting filled with a mix of joy and sorrow, with laughter and tears. The director cleverly arranges each turning point, such as in the thank-you segment of the meeting, where an employee joyfully goes on stage to receive a prize due to a misunderstanding of the rules, only to realize that it is not the grand prize but a consolation prize. This dramatic climax reversal, while eliciting laughter, resonates with the potential embarrassing situations these characters may face in real society. As explored in studies of black humor in "Lonely Hearts Miss"[2], black humor often reveals and interprets the absurdity and contradictions inherent in cultural expectations in an exaggerated manner.

In addition, the annual lottery event in the drama, originally intended to enhance employees' happiness and team cohesion, was cleverly transformed by the scriptwriter into a debate of losers and a display of mental breakdowns. Through the inner monologues of several envious and disappointed employees, not only did it deeply reflect the hidden mentality of comparison in corporate culture, but also, through the use of dark humor, it provided a sharp analysis and exposure of the subtle relationships between individuals in workplace culture.

At the plot-rich Spring Festival Gala, the screenwriter uses a series of misplaced musical performances and awkward interactive games to highlight the conflicts and contradictions among the characters. For example, a new employee who is bullied by colleagues is forced to perform on stage, unexpectedly winning applause from the audience. This untimely praise only

makes him feel even more lonely and helpless. Through such dramatic tension, the script aims to explore the alienation and loss of individuals in collective culture, showcasing black humor in mocking human weaknesses and raising questions about the marginalization of individuals in modern society at a deeper level, thereby increasing the poetic and philosophical value of the plot. Ultimately, these seemingly funny yet tear-jerking plot twists embody the most prominent characteristic of black humor in "The Annual Meeting Must Not Stop", while also deeply critiquing and reflecting on various distorted phenomena in real society.

3.3. Black Humor in Character Portrayal and Behavior

"The Annual Meeting Must Go On" uses exaggerated character images and extreme behaviors to illustrate the artistic effect of dark humor. In the play, characters often deal with problems and conflicts in unexpected ways, which often break conventions or carry tragic undertones, but unexpectedly bring laughter to the audience, reflecting the unique aesthetic value of dark humor[6]. For example, in the play, the rookie office worker Xiao Zhang unexpectedly wins the CEO's private collection of red wine at the annual meeting raffle. After some deliberation, he chooses to share it with the whole company. This seemingly noble act actually reveals a sense of helplessness towards company politics and irony towards the rules of survival in the workplace. This behavior reveals a profound exposure of the conflict between work pressure in modern society and personal values pursuit. In an increasingly competitive environment, dark humor becomes a way for people to relieve stress and self-mock, and also helps the characters in the play find a tinge of joy and self-worth affirmation in what seems like a hopeless survival state. Moreover, the behaviors displayed by various characters in the play reflect the author's critique of the hypocritical behaviors in real interpersonal relationships. For instance, the executive director, Director Li, always gives ambiguous evaluations of the employees' performances and makes empty promises and rewards during the annual meeting, which elicits laughs from the audience but actually serves as a satirical portrayal of the common management problems in the enterprise. This also reflects the increasingly clear conflict and contradiction between personal integrity and corporate capital in the modern social context. The exaggeration of character personalities in dark humor not only strengthens the humor, but also deepens the reflection on the real social situations, sparking discussions and reflections on workplace culture, human complexity, and social ethics among the audience.

3.4. The Interweaving of Humor and Emotion.

In the work "The Annual Meeting Can't Stop", the element of black humor presents an elusive quality, reflecting not only the author's unique insights into social phenomena, but also building a bridge between humor and tragedy. The work achieves a dual effect of making the audience experience both loss and sarcasm through the interweaving use of humor and pathos. The description of the annual meeting in the work often exaggerates and satirizes the characters' predicaments, creating a sense of inadvertent humor. However, hidden beneath these humorous plots is a doubt about individual values and a criticism of the superficial trend in modern society. This dual-layered construction allows black humor to convey a deeper logic in laughter, prompting the audience to further contemplate the current social situation. For example, through the exaggerated description of the annual meeting performances in the work, the flattering and hypocritical behaviors in the workplace are cleverly displayed. On one hand, the absurdity of these behaviors may elicit laughter from the audience, but on the other hand, behind this laughter lies a sharp satire of the current workplace environment, revealing the complex psychological game between individuals in the workplace. In this process, the characters' images are fully developed, such as the protagonist's outrageous behaviors due to excessive pressure, highlighting the absurd nature of black humor and revealing the vulnerability and helplessness of individual psychology in the modern workplace environment. In a specific expression, a casual joke from the protagonist not only triggers laughter on the

scene, but also, through a clever metaphor, bluntly points out the utilitarian nature of corporate culture, infusing the originally humorous scene with a serious and challenging meaning. The work packages the general psychological states of ordinary characters and social situations in a seemingly ordinary yet rich package, which appears simple in form but actually contains profound life philosophies. The entire play, in promoting the blending of humor and pathos, not only presents the aesthetic function of black humor, but also reveals the author's deep satire and scrutiny of reality.

4. The Value of Black Humor Elements in "The Annual Meeting Cannot Stop"

4.1. Critique and reflection on the reality of society

The black humor elements in "The Annual Meeting Must Go On" are not simply comedic techniques, but their underlying social significance lies in the criticism and reflection on contemporary complex social phenomena. The work exaggerates and satirizes the focus of the annual meeting, revealing the utilitarianism and extravagance hidden in corporate culture. This subversion of traditional annual meeting culture presents a workplace reality driven by capital and power, triggering a reexamination of the roles and values of individuals in modern society. In "The Annual Meeting Must Go On", the precise use of black humor portrays a series of absurd annual meeting scenes and sharply contrasting character behaviors, causing laughter on one hand and bitterness on the other, reflecting the author's exposure of the ugly side of modern society and his nostalgia for traditional morals and humanistic care. Through the extreme portrayal of character behaviors, such as eccentric costumes, excessive revelry, and nonsensical competition at the annual meeting, the satire of the social situation is reinforced. For example, some characters resort to bribery of superiors or marginalization of competitors for personal promotion, which, although described in a playful tone in the text, subtly reveals the prevalent unethical practices and human dilemmas in the workplace. It is evident that the black humor in "The Annual Meeting Must Go On" is not only for entertaining the public, but also for enabling the audience to deeply reflect on the social environment and cultural traditions they are in, expressing the author's concern and criticism of irrational and unjust phenomena in reality. It is worth mentioning that, despite the potential risk of misinterpretation brought by black humor, it is this dual nature of the narrative strategy that makes it a powerful tool in "The Annual Meeting Must Go On". It is not just criticism and satire, but also an expectation and exploration of a more just, rational, and humane social environment.

4.2. The impact of black humor on audience psychology

In the work "The Annual Meeting Can't Stop", the elements of black humor not only run through the entire plot development, but also have a significant impact on the audience's psychology. The irony and sarcasm contained in black humor are often expressed through exaggeration and irony, stimulating the audience's sympathy, resonance, and even reflection on the current situation. The depiction of the real world in the work, through dramatic plot settings and polarized characterization of the characters, makes black humor a unique lens for examining the bizarre phenomena of modern life. For example, the portrayal of the corporate annual meeting scene in the play is given profound social commentary significance, where the absurdity of corporate culture and the subtle power struggles between employees are woven into language and behavior full of sarcasm, reflecting various contradictions and conflicts in reality. Through the unfolding of these plots, the audience not only experiences the entertainment effect brought by black humor, but also unknowingly accepts a deep analysis of the real world and reflects on the individual's state of existence. The use of black humor in the work is both a tool for the author to criticize society and a catalyst to stir the audience's

emotional fluctuations, effectively touching the audience's sensitive nerves regarding work environments, social relationships, and personal identity. In the boundary between laughter and tears, the audience experiences both a sense of ease in resisting the hardships of life through humor, as well as feeling the hidden bitterness and powerlessness behind it. Black humor in film and television works often contain rich social information and cultural implications, resonating with the audience psychologically and sparking deeper discussions and contemplations about life. Just as the smile behind the black humor hides a profound insight into the hardships of life, the audience's emotional experience becomes more three-dimensional and complex. "The Annual Meeting Can't Stop" integrates black humor into all aspects of real life, guiding the audience to examine and feel the absurdity and irony in life. For the audience, black humor is not just a literary rhetorical device, but also a psychological experience, just as discussed in "Black Humor: Deconstruction of Reality and Reconstruction of Perception" by You Jia[12].

4.3. The Function and Value of Black Humor in Cultural Communication

At the level of cultural diffusion, black humor is not only an artistic expression technique, but also serves the function of conveying profound social significance and cultural value. The film "The Annual Meeting Must Go On" integrates elements of black humor into the script, exploring the essential role of this technique in cultural communication and its impact on the psychology and social attitudes of modern people. The black humor in this work presents a seemingly contradictory situation, where beneath the laughter-inducing scenes lies a thought-provoking social reality, guiding the audience to experience profound reflections on the real world amidst laughter. Through exaggerated performances and highly ironic plot design, viewers can detect the existence of social ills in a nonsensical story plot. "The Annual Meeting Must Go On" demonstrates a transformation of popular culture under the influence of black humor by providing insight into societal issues while also stimulating critical thinking among the audience. As analyzed in the aforementioned literature, the use of black humor in literary and artistic creation provides modern individuals with an opportunity to relieve stress through laughter while engaging in self-reflection. The film portrays a sense of cultural identity through its depiction of the traditional custom of annual meetings, metaphorically representing the conflict between collectivism and individualism, showcasing the role and challenges of local culture in a globalization context. It also reflects the sense of powerlessness and exploration of a way out for individuals within the power structure of modern capitalist society. The elements of black humor in the film become a powerful tool challenging traditional authority, power structures, and social norms, enabling cultural communication to possess the potential to break through fixed thinking patterns and inspiring public attention and participation in discussions on social issues. The author delves deeply into traditional Chinese heritage in the creative process, blending ancient culture with modern narrative techniques to present a fusion of traditional culture from ancient times to the present in a novel artistic form. In conclusion, the use of black humor in "The Annual Meeting Must Go On" reveals the author's reflection on the current situation and outlook on future development, carrying rich meaning and value in cultural communication, and being uniquely inspirational. The film is not only a cultural product for entertainment for the masses but also a work that reflects the emotions of the times and guides social trends, where the essence of black humor is excellently manifested and deeply disseminated.

5. Conclusion

5.1. Summary of research results on black humor elements in "The Annual Meeting Must Go On"

After in-depth analysis and discussion of the black humor elements in "The Annual Meeting Must Go On", this paper summarizes the core findings of the study. Through detailed textual interpretation and theoretical exposition, this research reveals that "The Annual Meeting Must Go On" is not just a simple comedy play, but a work that profoundly reflects the social contradictions and individual psychological dilemmas of contemporary society. The expression of black humor in film and television works often places characters in absurd situations through exaggeration, contrast, irony, etc., in order to reflect on and criticize social reality. "The Annual Meeting Must Go On" uses these techniques to transform what appears to be a cheerful annual meeting scene into a deep stage for examining workplace culture, interpersonal relationships, and individual situations. The study finds that the abrupt conflicts and clashes between characters often seen in the play are actually artistic amplifications of similar contradictions in real society, rich in irony and self-reflection. Furthermore, by decoding the psychological motivations behind the characters' behaviors, one can clearly feel the helplessness and embarrassment of people struggling in adversity, reflecting the complexity and unpredictability of modern life. "The Annual Meeting Must Go On" allows the audience to understand the bitterness of life amidst laughter, deepening sympathy and understanding for individuals striving to survive in a superficial society. The author is clearly not merely mocking, but using black humor as a tool to explore the complexity of human nature and the multiple facets of social life. In literary tradition, black humor is often used to challenge authority and subvert customs, and "The Annual Meeting Must Go On" embodies this point perfectly. The play not only promotes the entertainment function of literary works, but more importantly, plays an educational and enlightening role. Therefore, this research not only provides a fresh perspective for interpreting "The Annual Meeting Must Go On", a contemporary literary work, but also provides an analysis framework and reference for understanding and appreciating other literary works with black humor traits. Through these research results, we realize the expressive power and cultural value of black humor art in the context of rapid social change, confirming its significant position in modern literary creation.

5.2. Outlook for Future Research on Black Humor

In view of the current research on black humor, although the achievements are remarkable, there are still many areas that need to be further explored in the future. The current understanding of black humor still remains at a relatively shallow level, and future research should further deepen the breadth and depth of understanding of black humor. Especially in a cross-cultural context, the distinct differences presented by black humor and its unique manifestations in different socio-psychological backgrounds are directions worthy of further exploration in the future. Drawing on the artistic effects brought about by applying black humor in "The Annual Meeting Cannot Stop," it can be seen that it has incomparable advantages in analyzing complex psychological states and social issues. In addition, regarding the relationship between black humor and emotional experience, future research can further investigate the underlying connections between emotional changes and cognitive activities induced by black humor in different cultural backgrounds based on existing empirical research. Building on this, by conducting in-depth theoretical and empirical research, revealing the subtle mechanisms between black humor and emotional experience, brightness perception, will help clarify the role and pathways of influence of black humor in multicultural communication. Demonstrating the positive effects of black humor in promoting mental health, alleviating social tension, and other aspects is a topic worth actively exploring in future research.

At the same time, previous studies on the application of black humor in animation and other art media have focused mainly on analyzing how black humor enhances the expressiveness and meaning of artistic works. However, how to make black humor more accessible to the public's aesthetic taste, how to maintain its unique aesthetic and irony while considering a wide audience acceptance, and how to achieve a balance between commerce and art in this process are also important topics for future research and practice. By conducting in-depth analysis of domestic and foreign black humor animation works, exploring the cultural differences and acceptance factors within them, useful guidance can be provided for introducing new creative thinking and expressive forms for domestic animation.

In conclusion, drawing from the experience of "The Show Must Go On", future research on black humor should focus on its application in intercultural communication, exploring its variations and adaptability in different cultural systems. At the same time, emphasis should be placed on the interaction between black humor and audience emotional experiences, using interdisciplinary research methods to broaden research perspectives, closely integrating theory and practice, and further promoting the deep integration and innovative development of black humor in the cultural and creative industries.

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