

# On the Similarities and Differences Between the Female View and the Modern Female View in the Decameron

Linshan Bao<sup>1</sup>, Xiaoyu Zhang<sup>2</sup>, Qianyuan Li<sup>2</sup>, Guirui Chen<sup>3</sup>, Anbo Yang<sup>4\*</sup>, Nengpeng Fan<sup>3\*</sup>

1. College of Culture and Media, Chongqing University of Arts and Sciences, Chongqing 402160, China.

2. College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Yunnan Agricultural University, Kunming 650201, China.

3. College of Science, Yunnan Agricultural University, Kunming 650201, China.

4. College of Marxism, Yunnan Agricultural University, Kunming 650201, China.

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**Abstract:** The Decameron is one of the representative works of the famous French writer Maupassant. The female image in this work is full and vivid, which has attracted wide attention and discussion. With the change of society, the modern female consciousness has gradually awakened, and the concept of female image has also changed. Therefore, it is of certain academic and practical significance to explore the similarities and differences between female views in Decameron and modern female view. This paper aims to analyze the contrast and comparison between the female image and the similarities and differences between the two, so as to provide reference for the future research of female problems.

**Keywords:** Decameron; Female View; Modern Female View; Similarities and Differences

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Research Background

The Decameron and Strange Tales from Make-do Studio are two famous strange books in both China and the West, which occupy an important position in the history of literature. The female images in these two works are distinct, brave and resourceful, and deeply rooted in the hearts of people's hearts, highlighting the female consciousness of the two male writers Boccaccio and Pu Songling beyond The Times. Therefore, it is of great research value to study the feminist writing and the description of typical female roles in these two works, and to explore the similarities and differences between the two writers and their female writing in different cultural backgrounds. At present, domestic and foreign scholars have done a relatively much study on Decameron and Strange Tales from Chinese Studio, but they mainly focus on the literary style, artistic characteristics, and cultural connotation of the works, and have relatively little research on the female view of the two writers and the female writing. Therefore, it is necessary to study this topic deeply.

### 1.2 Study content

This paper studies the similarities and differences between the female view and the modern female view in the Decameron. The Decameron is one of the representative works of the French thinker Dani Eldeford. It reflects the social habits, moral concepts, interpersonal relations and views of love at that time through ten stories. Women play an important role in it, and the image presented also represents the author's view of women. Modern view of women refers to people's cognition and evaluation of women in today's society. In the Decameron, women are somehow given a protected role. For example, on the first day of the story, the hero Gilliamdura criticizes each other in front of her wife and mistress, and eventually the wife becomes the winner of the story. This expression shows that the author believes in the difference between men and women, and believes that women are the weak ones who need to be protected by men. In addition, in the story "The Portrait of Madame Constance", the author sees women as the source of inspiration for art and creates a typical "female beauty".

## 2. The female view in the Decameron

### 2.1 Overview of the Decameron

The Decameron is one of the representative works of the great French writer Maupassant, and it is also a collection of short stories

with high literary value. This novel creates a number of female characters. On the whole, the female image in the Decameron advocates love, pursues freedom, and is good at expressing emotions. Female image is plump and does not stick to the old ideas, leaving a deep impression on people.

## **2.2 Female image description**

The description of women in the Decameron is an important aspect of this book. In the book, the female images have a diversity and distinct personality characteristics. First of all, xq. Although women are limited by public opinion, they all have their own unique thoughts and pursuits. For example, Naomi, the heroine in the story “The Rainy Season,” is a brave girl who pursues freedom. She could have lived her life at ease, but she chose to escape from her father’s family and try to pursue her dreams. It is also in this story that Sir Ottoman’s wife, is also a woman with independent ideas. After learning the news of her husband’s adultery, she did not choose to compromise, but decisively left the family. These female images all show the spirit of self-pursuit and independent thinking. In short, the female image has a unique charm in the Decameron, which is a rich and diverse image with distinct personality. These female images show the tenacity, independence, wisdom and wisdom of women, which are respected and pursued by modern women.

## **2.3 Female role positioning**

In the Decameron, the positioning of female characters can be said to be relatively fixed. They are often portrayed as passive, vulnerable, sensitive, charming, dependent on their husbands, and influenced by the preference for sons. Especially in the story of “girl” on the seventh day, the heroine’s situation can be said to show this passive female image. The girl in the story is a girl from a poor background, relying on silk flowers for a living. A rich boy accidentally learned of her story and launched a passionate pursuit to her. However, as the rich children gradually become despicable and petty, the image of the girl is becoming more and more passive. In the end, she became a ruined wife living on the street. Therefore, although in the past and contemporary society, the positioning for women, but the female image for us to understand the context of history and culture is still very reference value, it also reminds us in the contemporary society, to further reflect the development direction of female role and the goal of the next step.

# **3. Modern view of women**

## **3.1 Role transformation of contemporary women**

With the development of the society, the contemporary female role is undergoing unprecedented changes. In the traditional family, women bear most of the responsibilities and obligations in family life, while in modern society, more and more women begin to go out of their homes, participate in all fields of society, and become the backbone of all walks of life. Now, feminism has opened a new chapter in women’s ideology, culture and social system, which, through a series of propaganda, education and actions, awakens contemporary women’s self-knowledge and values. To sum up, the social role of contemporary women has a trend to the dominant position, women have a broader space for development in the society and family, and the rise of feminism also provides a solid support for the all-round development of women.

## **3.2 Improvement of women’s social status**

In today’s society, women’s social status has been greatly improved. In the past, women’s social status was relatively low, constrained by traditional ideas, and women were considered to be mainly bearers of the family, and usually had no opportunity to receive higher education and do challenging work. However, with the progress of society and the change of people’s ideas, women gradually begin to have the right to self-realize and pursue a career. In short, the social status of modern women has undergone tremendous changes, which is not only on the surface of equality, but also gradually deepened in the transformation of gender roles. The awakening of women’s self-consciousness, the change of social concept and the support of law promote the promotion of women’s social status. Although there are still many places that

need to be improved and perfected, on the whole, in the modern society, women have become an important force that cannot be ignored, and they are making efforts for the progress and development of the society in their own way.

## **4. The similarities and differences between the Decameron and the modern views of women**

### **4.1 Female role positioning**

In the Decameron, the female role positioning is very different from the modern female view. First of all, women are more used as male playthings and accessories in the Decameron. In the second day of the “buried flower”, female protagonist Lin daiyu is described as a lofty, smart, sensitive, autistic girl, on the one hand, the bondage of family humble and marriage fate, on the other hand and tend to self indulgence and self-destruction, her life by patriarchal family and social restrictions and crackdown. Obviously, this kind of female role positioning is very passive and marginalized.

### **4.2 Female consciousness concept**

In the Decameron, women’s consciousness is mainly reflected in the concept of marriage, sex and family. From the perspective of marriage, the women in the novel are basically forced to marry a man who does not like it according to the words of their parents or match-makers. On the contrary, modern women pay more attention to the freedom of marriage and love and marriage, emphasizing the equality of marriage and respect for each other’s choice, which to some extent reflects the values of independence and autonomy of modern women.

## **5. Gender issues in the literature**

### **5.1 Female image in a Dream of Red Mansions**

A Dream of Red Mansions is a novel full of gender consciousness. For example, the female image in the 12 Flowers of Jinling is different from other female images. They all have different personalities and thoughts, so they become one of the great artistic images in Chinese culture. In the novel, the female images such as ren, Qingwen and Daiyu reflect the dedication and contradictory character of women in the late Qing Dynasty. She is a gentle, respectful and obedient girl, whose image represents the highest level of dedication in the Red Chamber.

### **5.2 Sexism in The Scholars In the novel**

The Scholars, the author Wu Jingzi uses the extremely meticulous brushwork to depict the gender discrimination phenomenon in the feudal society at that time. In this era, men are given an extremely important position, while women are regarded as vulnerable groups. In the novel, male characters more or less show contempt, superficial respect for women or wanton abandonment, while women are often subject to various oppression and bondage in this completely male-dominated society, such as commercialization and unfreedom of marriage.

## **6. Summary and outlook**

### **6.1 The Enlightenment of the female view**

In The Decameron to contemporary women In the Decameron, the female view shows a diversity. In one aspect, women are in a passive position in society, and they can only survive by living on men. On the other hand, they are powerful and complex on the spiritual level. It can be said that the female image created in the Decameron not only highlights the helplessness and passivity of women in love and marriage, but also shows the ideological independence and freedom of women. We can see that the female view in the Decameron still has enlightenment significance to contemporary women. Although they have entered the modern society and achieved a great degree of equality, women still face many challenges and problems in the workplace and in their marriage. While we should be pursuing the quality of life, we should constantly improve our own quality and ability, and maintain our inner independence and value pursuit.

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