

Cosmic Ethics in Science Fiction

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Abstract: For many posthumanist theorists, science fiction literature is an excellent way for us to get closer to posthuman thinking. Science fiction literature always predicts the future while metaphorizing the present, which provides all kinds of imaginary possibilities for the future of human civilization in advance, and always reminds the boundaries of real human intelligence. Dako Suenwen's definition of science fiction literature has been widely recognized by scholars, "Science fiction as a literary genre, its sufficient necessary condition is the presence and interaction of dissociation and cognition." That is, science fiction works are closely related to science and technology, adhering to the spirit of science, emphasizing a separation of scientific epistemological attitudes. It is precisely this combination of cognition and dissociation, concerned with the characteristics of the present and the future, that science fiction literature has become an excellent way for us to think about cosmic ethics in the posthuman era.

Keywords: Science Fiction Literature; Cosmic Ethics; Philosophy of Science and Technology

Introduction

Science fiction's cognitive "dissociation" approach will cause readers to alienate or alienate traditional concepts of human nature, so that it can provide space for the narrative of non-human subjects, and then examine the boundaries between human and non-human. Science fiction works dramatize and expand the science and technology of our time, presenting us with a variety of posthuman subjects, and providing a better field for researchers to discuss posthuman-related issues.

1. Humanist Critique

The golden rule is a principle of reciprocity, the core and foundation of the human ethical and moral system, at the same time, it is also known as the "law of love", requiring kindness to others, H.T.D. Ross through the study of religions around the world to summarize this law, in order to prove that it is a universal value applicable to all mankind, but when human beings look to outer space, they can't help but think about whether such a law applies to the whole universe civilization, while human beings explore outer space, ethics and morality have also become a problem that must be considered.

In the field of literature, science fiction literature shows us reflections on cosmic ethics, which are mainly divided into humanism and posthumanism. For example, science fiction works such as "Avatar", "Independence Day" and "Lost in Space" are almost all alien enemies or friends set up within the framework of good and evil ethics and morality under the Golden Rule, showing the audience a humanistic tendency in the posture of a victor of justice, in these works, the author depicts either humanoid "pseudo-alien" or "monsters" that cause human fear and fear, human beings are in such disasters, and finally defeat each other as justice. Implicit in this is still a proud anthropocentrism, in which it is difficult for humans to imagine a complete other. Polish science fiction writer Lem once pointed out sharply that some science fiction works turn the universe into another "domesticated earth", allowing human beings to encounter various cruel misfortunes in the universe, and this cruelty is "humanized cruelty, human understanding cruelty, and even cruelty that can ultimately be judged by ethical views... We can see what science fiction does with the universe, and it makes no sense to look at the universe from a moral point of view."

And Lem also shows a critique of humanism and a strong posthumanist tendency in his own work. Many of his works, such as "The Star of Solaris" and "The Voice of the Lord", express the criticism of humanism through the impossibility of human contact with aliens and the unknowability of alien civilizations, express the thinking and exploration of new ethics, and show that when human beings place their own ethics in the universe, they only judge others within the framework of the binary opposition of good and evil, which is not only the work of arrogant anthropocentric thinking, but also the helpless move of human beings who cannot transcend the limitations of their own cognition.

In post-human literature, China has also contributed its own strength, in Liu Cixin's novel three-body problem, it explores the ethics

and morality of human beings and the universe, launches a critique of humanism and discusses the impact of science and technology and space exploration on human subjectivity and tries to propose new ethical forms, put forward theories such as the law of the dark forest, giving civilization to the years instead of giving civilization years, etc., moral abandonment and attention to posthumanism constitute Liu Cixin's entire thinking on the future destiny of mankind and the universe. At the same time, he also tried and explored the construction of cosmic ethics.

Human ethics and morality are closely related to humanism, in "The Three-Body Problem", in addition to directly criticizing and disintegrating humanitarian ethics and morality with the wall plan, it also achieves moral wall breaking through humanism that criticizes universal morality, which is mainly reflected in three aspects: one is to achieve the criticism of anthropocentrism with human cognitive setbacks, in the golden rule, it is good as the core, goodness and beauty are unified, and Liu Cixin places "beauty" in the cosmic level, subverting the close relationship between beauty and goodness, in the novel, the stunning, so-called perfect work of art "water drop" is a powerful weapon of the enemy, and the water drop forms a sharp contrast with the earth fleet, and it is this small "work of art" that almost ruins the entire fleet; The second is to try to deprive the universe of anthropomorphism, whether it is the three-body or the singer, Liu Cixin's description is simple and mysterious, this alien civilization steals the fixed conceptual image of "man" as life; The third is to subvert some human characteristics that are regarded as having unique value.

2. The thinking and construction of cosmic ethics

If the golden rule does not apply to the entire universe, then in going to space, humanity should go beyond humanitarian limitations to pursue a post-human ethic.

In the thinking about posthuman ethics, many science fiction writers have given their own thinking and exploration, Gomel proposed that science fiction is to provide a thinking and exploration of posthuman ethics through two contents: science and religion.

In the novel, Lem regards religion as a way to explore solutions, in "Solaris", he allows humans to have a certain degree of contact and communication with alien civilizations through religion, he has a more pessimistic attitude towards science, and expresses the helplessness and helplessness of earth technology in the face of alien civilizations, but at the same time, his attitude towards alien civilizations is relatively optimistic and positive, in his novels, although god-level civilizations are unknowable, they are not necessarily malicious, and it may not be interested in low-level civilizations, nevertheless, Nor is he supporting humanity's unscrupulous efforts to broadcast themselves to the universe.

Liu Cixin, on the other hand, has a positive attitude towards science and expresses his concern about human broadcasting to the universe, and compared with Lem's "meaningless contact", he expresses a pessimistic attitude towards contact and communication between civilizations through the description of the law of the dark forest. Some scholars believe that Liu Cixin holds a cosmic zero morality in his science fiction novels, which is based on Liu Cixin's description of the laws of the dark forest of the universe. But in fact, the law of the dark forest makes the universe civilization in a fear of silence, its existence makes the universe eventually inevitable to destroy, in the third part, he cleverly criticized the law of the dark forest, in the final page printed the existence of "zeroers", they both master the supreme science and technology, but also have the cosmic righteousness, when the civilizations are still trapped in the law of the dark forest, they are already sending ultramembrane broadcasts to civilization, it is the description of this group that makes the author return to morality, The morality here is not the daily "small morality", but the morality of the universe, from which the author sublimates the theme, indicating that the highest survival law of the universe is the ultimate goodness and secret morality, but at the end of the novel, he draws a question mark on this secret righteousness, whether the 1.5 million civilizations that received the superfilm broadcast will give up peace for the universe, or will be selfish and selfish to preserve the present, or leave some quality of civilization with selfishness like Cheng Xin, we don't know, therefore, Liu Cixin also leaves us with an uncertain future.

3. Conclusion

Human exploration of outer space is inevitable and constantly advancing, in the future, the existing universal morality and ethics of human beings are likely to be impacted or even changed, whether in humanist literature or posthumanist literature, science fiction writers have

played their imagination, thinking and exploring cosmic ethics, which is the situation we may encounter in the future, such as Avatar's works convey the universality and victory of human ethical values, The works of Lem and Liu Cixin express the problems existing in the face of human ethical values in the face of external civilizations, and put forward the concept of cosmic ethics, which provides us with infinite possibilities for moral and ethical thinking in future space exploration.

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