A Comparative Study of Folklore from Chinese Culture and Western Cultures

Abstract
Folklore, a genre of children's literature, is always considered as one of the most mysterious and interesting genres. Folklore is defined as stories that originated orally and have no authors. Given these qualities, folklore is often considered as a mirror that reflects different groups of peoples cultures and moral values. This study based on existing research results, compared and examined a few classic folktales from Chinese culture and Western culture. The research findings show that there are both similarities and differences of folklores between two cultural systems.

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value the interests they value so highly. Aaron Stalnaker (2006) proposes a comparative methodology involving “bridge concepts” that facilitates the rich cultural presuppositions contained in Chinese folk culture have important values in the translation of folk culture and cross-cultural communication. China has colorful folk culture. With a good understanding of all ethnic groups, we can grasp the cultural presupposition implied in folk culture and achieve successful communication in folk culture. The process of translating Chinese folk culture into English is equivalent to the process of spreading folk culture. This form of conveying feelings in western Hunan originates from the most simple and primitive human needs for mate selection. Through the “song of passion under the sun” and “song of tenderness under the moonlight”, they can test each other’s intelligence and feelings. This paper studies cultural differences of festivals between China and western countries by analyzing different cultural connotations of festivals. Special attention is given to comparing Chinese Spring Festival with Western Christmas, which in recent years has been generally accepted by most Chinese people, especially the youth. The author scrutinizes the origin, ways of celebration, and similarities of the festivals. I. Different culture connotations reflected in Chinese and Western Festivals. Here the author takes Spring Festival and Christmas as an example to analyze the different culture connotations of festivals between China and Western countries. There is folklore about the monster called “nian”. In fact, the festival stems from the agricultural production. Folklore culture, including stories, music, dance, legends, oral history, proverbs, jokes, popular beliefs, customs, and so forth within a particular population comprising the traditions (including oral traditions) of that culture, subculture, or group. It is also the set of practices through which those expressive genres are shared. The academic and usually ethnographic study of folklore is sometimes called folkloristics. The word ‘folklore’ was first used by the English antiquarian William Thoms in