

The Spread and Integration of Culture: An Analysis of Cultural Differences in Disney Live Action Film Mulan

Haiyan Wang

School of media, Chongqing Three Kings University, Wang Zhou, Chongqing,
404120, China

wanghaiyan2024123@163.com

Abstract: In the wave of globalization, all countries are actively building cultural industries, and national cultural communication is very important for the construction of national image. The live action movie *Mulan* made by Disney Company has attracted wide attention from scholars at home and abroad, and Chinese audiences have different comments on the film. This paper first combs the evolution of Chinese *Mulan* story, and then analyzes the cultural differences in Disney live action film *Mulan* from four aspects: production background and scene setting, role setting and character, film plot description, narrative mode and theme expression. Finally, it explains the reasons for the formation of this cultural difference from the aspects of Chinese and Western languages, hierarchy, communication mode, traditional thoughts and family concepts. This has reference significance for the development of China's film and television industry, and can better promote the spread of Chinese culture in the world.

Keywords: *Mulan*, Cultural Differences, Cultural Communication

1. INTRODUCTION

The story of Hua *Mulan* is widely spread in China and is deeply loved by people. This story is not only an entertainment activity, but also a cultural inheritance and expression. In China, the image of *Mulan* is widely used in various art forms, such as painting, sculpture, drama, film and so on. These different art forms are showing the charm and spiritual connotation of *Mulan* in different ways. Hua *Mulan*'s story carries rich values of Chinese civilization. The most important is the emphasis on courage, loyalty and family values (Li, 2023). Hua *Mulan* embodies these values with her own actions, and her story has been encouraging people to pursue these beautiful qualities. In cross-cultural communication, the influence of *Mulan* story can not be ignored. This story stands out from the form of Chinese folk tales, and has been translated and mutated constantly, becoming a cross-cultural prototype and a cultural symbol that can be spread in various media. Around the world, more and more people begin to understand and love the role of *Mulan*, and her story is also praised by more and more people. Hollywood films, as one of the most influential media in the world,

have been conveying and shaping various cultural images through films. In the Disney live action film *Mulan*, Hollywood adopted a common international narrative strategy: "Oriental wonders+Chinese faces+western stories" to tell *Mulan* the story of breaking through gender stereotypes, accepting her female identity and realizing her female value. This narrative method not only retains the original Chinese cultural elements, but also integrates western narrative techniques and themes, making the story more globally attractive (Mazihan, 2022; Zhang, 2022). The release of Disney live action movie *Mulan* undoubtedly triggered a heated discussion on Chinese culture worldwide (Chen, 2022). As one of the most influential media in the world, Disney showed the elements of Chinese traditional culture to the global audience through this film, which also caused widespread controversy. This controversy mainly stems from the cultural differences in the presentation of Chinese cultural elements in the film. From the perspective of cross-cultural communication, this cultural difference not only exists in the production background and role setting of the film, but also reflects the differences in the cultural core between China and the United States (Zhang, 2021). In the United States, Disney incorporated the story into its own cultural system through adaptation and innovation, and endowed it with new significance and value. In this process, the phenomenon of cultural misreading in cross-cultural communication is inevitable. Therefore, from the perspective of cross-cultural communication, this paper compares and analyzes the cultural core of *Mulan* story between China and the United States, and discusses the phenomenon of cultural misreading in the process of cross-cultural communication. This is conducive to the development of story adaptation and communication from a cross-cultural perspective, and is of great significance to promoting the global dissemination of Chinese cultural film and television works.

2. OVERVIEW OF MULAN STORY

2.1 Overview of *Mulan* Story in Chinese Traditional Culture

After textual research, the origin of *Mulan* story can be traced back to the folk song "*Mulan Ci*". This poem was written in the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-557), and was included in the *Yuefu Poetry Anthology* by Guo Maoqian of the Song Dynasty. However, scholars have different opinions on the exact creation time of *Mulan Ci*. But judging from the events, scenes and the use of people depicted in the poetry, the *Mulan* story

spread among the people is likely to have originated in the Northern Wei Dynasty. When completing this study, I tend to adopt the consensus of the academic community, that is, "Mulan Ci" is a folk song based on the background of the Northern Wei Dynasty, which has been widely spread through the processing and modification of scholars. Mulan CI depicts the story of Mulan hiding her daughter and joining the army for her father. Through the description of different life scenes, the multi-faceted image of Mulan is created. For example, "Mulan home weaving" shows her diligence and craftsmanship as a traditional woman; "Willing to saddle the horse for the world and fight for the Lord from now on" shows her bravery and filial piety, and her determination to go to the battlefield instead of her father; "The general died in a hundred battles and the heroes returned in ten years" describes her heroism and perseverance. In the initial description, Mulan was a legendary woman with filial piety and courage. She bravely set foot on the battlefield, broke through the boundaries between men and women, and finally successfully won the war and established great achievements. Today, thousands of years later, we re-examine Mulan's story from a historical perspective, and we can find that Mulan's image is full of creativity. Under the shackles of the thousand year long ethical code and traditional norms, Mulan bravely broke through the traditional restrictions, entered the male field and showed equal strength with men. This highly creative depiction is inseparable from the social and historical background of ethnic integration in the Northern Dynasty (Wang, 2023).

2.2 Overview of Disney Live Action Film Mulan

Mulan, a Disney live action film, is based on the traditional Mulan story in China and retains its core plot completely. The main line of the film is still Mulan replacing her father and stepping on the battlefield as a man. Her heroic deeds, including rescuing the emperor from the enemy on the battlefield, constitute the main content of the film. At the beginning of the film, the emperor issued a conscription order to resist foreign enemies, thus describing the background of the story for us. In the Hua family, because his father was old and frail, there were no men in the family who could be enlisted. At this time, Hua Mulan chose to replace her father without hesitation. She disguised herself as a man, named Hua Jun, and embarked on the journey of joining the Army (Gao, 2022). The highlights of the film mainly focus on Mulan's military life and battlefield experience. After going through all kinds of difficult tests, Mulan finally became an outstanding soldier. In a battle, Mulan's clothes were pierced by a witch, which exposed her female identity. For this reason, she was abandoned by the army in the

snow. However, it was this dilemma that prompted Mulan to complete the awakening of self-consciousness. At the end of the film, when the army was in crisis, Mulan, who had awakened, arrived in time to help the army repel the invaders and successfully rescue the emperor. Based on the animated version, the live action version highlights the power of women. It not only shows Mulan's heroic image, but also spends a lot of space and design to describe Mulan's recognition and recognition of her own strength, that is, her recognition of female values. Director Nicky said that Mulan finally won after realizing the female power contained in herself and learning to use it reasonably. All kinds of settings about women's power in the film, including the setting of witch image, are to serve Mulan's victory. The live action film "Mulan" is very beautiful, showing a grand momentum. When depicting the heroic heroines on the battlefield, the film emphasizes the great power released by the awakening of female consciousness. Mulan not only successfully defended the country and rescued the emperor, but also won glory for her father and became the pride of her father (He & Liu, 2020).

3. ANALYSIS OF CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN DISNEY LIVE ACTION FILM MULAN

3.1 Production Background and Scene Setting

The film is based on traditional Chinese stories, so a lot of Chinese elements are integrated into the background construction. However, different from the stories shot by the Chinese themselves, Disney has been limited by the Western cognition of Chinese culture when dealing with these Chinese elements. It pays more attention to the superficial visual presentation and pursues the impact of cultural symbols, rather than digging into the connotation and essence of culture. At the beginning of the film, Disney gives a detailed description of traditional Chinese architecture and folk life. In sharp contrast to the simple presentation of Mulan's residence in the animation, the live action version truly reproduces the magnificent style and features of Fujian Tulou, a traditional Chinese building, through many scenes (Figure 1), where many relatives of Mulan's family live. By vividly depicting the harmonious coexistence of Tulou residents, the film shows the unique warm atmosphere of blood connection and family supremacy in oriental culture. This film shows the magnificent natural scenery of China. The family environment of Mulan and the Imperial Palace are characterized by bright red and yellow colors,

and the warm colored lanterns hanging everywhere highlight the Chinese color in the western vision. The coder aims to arouse the resonance of domestic audiences by presenting cultural symbols such as magnificent earth buildings and lanterns. At the same time, by integrating a large number of Chinese elements, it has successfully aroused the interest of Western audiences in the Oriental world and satisfied their desire to explore the distant Oriental Culture (Xujinlong & Ji, 2021).



Figure 1: Mulan Residence in the Film

From the creative perspective of Disney, the costumes and makeup of the characters in the film show a new look. As a Disney film famous for its Princess theme, its character costume design has always tended to be delicate and luxurious. For this reason, many stylists of Disney have won recognition and praise from international awards for their outstanding contributions in film clothing. In the process of preparing the film *Mulan*, the two stylists revealed that they had studied the character modeling in the film in depth in order to better show the narrative techniques and theme connotation. To this end, they not only went to the major Western museums to visit the exhibition of Chinese clothing, but also went to all parts of China to experience and absorb the essence of Chinese traditional clothing and makeup. In the film, the makeup and costumes of many characters are deeply influenced by Chinese history. For example, the forehead makeup painted by Mulan on a blind date uses the elements of goose yellow and safflower (Fig. 2), which is based on the makeup of Chinese ladies in the Tang Dynasty and the plum blossom makeup of Shouyang princess in the Southern Dynasty (Fig. 3). In addition, most of the characters' costumes mainly refer to the style of Han costumes (Fig. 4), while some characters refer to the clothing characteristics of the Sui and Tang Dynasties (Fig. 5). In the process of shaping the makeup and modeling of the characters, Disney did not completely adhere to the details of Chinese history, but cleverly integrated many Chinese cultural elements.

This approach aims to extract typical Chinese elements from the "original context" of Chinese culture and re implant them into the new story background created by Disney. Through this way of recreation, Disney successfully combines the charm of Chinese culture with Disney's fantasy world.



Figure 2: Mulan Goose Yellow Makeup



Figure 3: Plum Blossom Lady



Figure 4: Western Han Dynasty Costumes, Song Train and Deep Clothes



Figure 5: Women's Clothing in Sui and Tang Dynasties

3.2 Role Setting and Character

In the prelude to *Mulan Ci*, Hua Mulan is depicted as a typical traditional Chinese female image - gentle, virtuous and graceful. However, this seemingly ordinary woman, out of deep concern for the safety of her old father, resolutely chose to go to the battlefield. This decision not only allowed her to transcend the shackles of ethics in her personal and family disputes, but also made her brave image in her military career deeply imprinted in people's hearts. To some extent, Hua Mulan's image reflects the role and status of women in a patriarchal society. However, under the interpretation of Disney, Mulan's image has been more modern and humanistic. She not only bravely broke the shackles of tradition, but also found her own value in the awakening of self-consciousness. The transformation of this image undoubtedly emphasizes the importance of individualism and feminism, making Hua Mulan a female hero deeply loved and respected by modern audiences. In the opening part of the film, Disney presents a Mulan that is completely different from the traditional Chinese female image. She is not only not good at needlework, but also does not stick to the stereotype of "three obediences and four virtues". We saw her playing with the dog while feeding the chicken, breaking the tea cup awkwardly when meeting the matchmaker (Fig. 6), and even cheating secretly when reciting the women's norms. The screenwriter endows Mulan with a unique and distinctive personality-talent, vitality and self-confidence. Especially in the scene of her dressing up to see the matchmaker, the audience can feel her deep desire to bring honor to the family through marriage, but at the same time it seems to be incompatible with her gender role and difficult to integrate into the surrounding social circle. However, this meticulous depiction is obviously different from the archetypal characters in *Mulan CI*.



Figure 6: Magnolia Breaks the Teacup

From the moment Mulan entered the military camp, Disney's creative team began to focus on shaping her image of strength, perseverance and intelligence. Whether it is the firm will shown by training side by side with male soldiers in the military camp and fighting together, or the fearless courage shown in the snow mountain battle, Mulan demonstrates her affirmation of personal value with her female strength. In the snowy mountains, Mulan, who was torn by witches and exposed as a female and abandoned by the army, firmly said, "maybe I am not fighting just for my father, maybe I just want to prove myself to the world." this statement directly reveals that Mulan is not a blind follower of the patriarchal society, and she has deeply realized her intrinsic value. At the same time, it also indicates that Mulan's decision to go to the capital for rescue in the second half of the film is not only due to her loyalty to her father, the emperor or the country, but also due to her pursuit and Realization of her own value. After defeating the invaders and leading the army to victory, Mulan showed outstanding bravery and leadership, and was honored as a national hero. It is worth noting that when communicating with Mulan (Fig. 7), the emperor chose the way of looking down, which was extremely rare in the strict hierarchy of ancient China. Disney skillfully used this detail to emphasize the necessity of attaching importance to women's values and convey far-reaching social implications (Zhou, 2023).



Figure 7: Communication between Mulan and the Emperor

3.3 Film Plot Description

Different from the in-depth description of Mulan's worries before leaving home in *Mulan's Ci*, the Disney version has a simpler description of this scene, and the overall atmosphere is more relaxed and lively (Yau, 2021). The film focuses more on shaping Mulan's image of kindness, filial piety and freedom from tradition. In addition, the film also shows Mulan's military career and her heroic deeds in defending the country, including how she changed clothes and received training. This adaptation method not only takes into account the understanding of audiences from different cultural backgrounds, but also further highlights Mulan's personal value (Caoyingxue, 2021). Unlike *Mulan Ci*, which focuses the climax on Mulan's emotional reunion with her family after returning home, the screenwriter chose to put the climax of the story at the moment when Mulan and her comrades in arms jointly resisted the invaders and won the admiration of the public. The description of family affection and love is relatively simple. Such plot settings once again highlight the writer's praise and esteem for women's values (Zouxiaolin, 2023). Under the interpretation of Disney, Mulan's story has added fantasy color. Unlike the traditional Chinese version, the Disney version of Mulan is endowed with a mysterious power called "Qi". This power can be compared to the "super power" common in American movies to some extent, which injects new vitality into the story. In the film, Mulan's "Qi" is extremely magical. Because she once showed herself in men's clothing, this untrue identity made her "anger" suppressed. However, after Mulan's female consciousness was awakened and her true identity as a daughter was rediscovered, the powerful magic force - "Qi" reappeared. It was with this strength that Mulan successfully led the army to win the war. Although this adaptation has subverted the traditional way of story telling, it has brought more excellent visual effects to the film. In addition, the film also introduces the role of a "witch", who has amazing combat effectiveness and can defeat the entire army alone, showing a typical Western witch image (Yan, 2021). The addition of this new role may be the writer's positive efforts in trying to integrate culture.

3.4 Narrative Mode and Theme Expression

The original *Mulan CI* tells a touching story about Hua Mulan who went to war for her father to fulfill her filial duty. However, in the adapted film *Mulan*, the traditional concepts of "loyalty to the monarch and filial piety" and "men are superior to women" are desalinated and replaced by the concepts of women's autonomy and gender equality emphasized in western culture. The film portrays a female image who pursues personal freedom

and independent spirit, thus endowing Mulan with a new era connotation. In the film, individualism, the core of American culture, is prominently highlighted. The freedom of thought and action advocated by western culture endows Mulan with distinctive personality. Disney skillfully remodeled the well-known Mulan image in the East into a unique "heroine" in the west, and expanded its influence more widely with the help of the media of animated films. This narrative technique coincides with the creative characteristics of Hollywood. In addition to its unique narrative conception, Mulan also adopts appropriate narrative strategies in the characterization of characters. Character is not only the inner soul of a character, but also the core force driving the action of a character. According to zhangzhenyi, the character designer of the film, when designing the character image, we should not only pay attention to the external appearance, but also more deeply explore and show the character's personality and personality charm. In the film Mulan, the role setting is colorful. The relatively single roles of Shan Yu, matchmaker and Prime Minister add a sense of hierarchy to the image of Mulan and other protagonists by contrast. For example, the ferocity of the matchmaker is in sharp contrast to Mulan's innocence, while the strictness of the prime minister highlights Li Xiang's tolerance. In addition, the film also skillfully integrates animal images, which is not uncommon in Hollywood animated films. It is not only related to the film grading system, but also reflects the creator's unique value orientation and creative ideas. Inspired by the totem "dragon" in Chinese traditional culture, the wooden beard character has a great sense of humor. It has been trampled flat by a horse because of its chatter, and it has also been cleverly folded into the shape of an alarm clock by Mulan. At the critical moment when the snow mountain was about to collapse, it was even put into the cannon to blow up the snow mountain. The two cartoon characters, Mu Xu and Bi Bi, played an important assistant role in Mulan's military career and laid a solid foundation for shaping Mulan's image. Mulan's populist character is highlighted largely due to the introduction of vivid animal characters in the film. These characters, such as grandma's auspicious cricket, the loyal horse accompanying Mulan in the war, and the patron saint Mu Xu in the ancestral temple, all endow the film with unique spirituality and show unlimited magical power. In contrast, traditional Chinese images usually have profound respect for history and humanities, and their narrative style is also grand and spectacular. However, western films tend to joke heroes in a humorous way, and even dispel the seriousness of history. This cultural difference also led to the audience's constant questioning and discussion through the bullet

screen in the process of film appreciation.

4. AN ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF CULTURAL MISREADING IN THE LIVE ACTION FILM MULAN

4.1 Differences Between Chinese and Western Languages

In the live action film, the lines and their translation are slightly lacking in conveying the artistic conception, and some originally beautiful sentences appear stiff in the translation. Take a sentence in Mulan's poem as an example, "the male rabbit's feet flutter, the female rabbit's eyes are blurred. The two rabbits walk beside the ground, and an can tell whether I'm male or female." this sentence originally describes Mulan's return from victory. When she re dressed, her old comrades in arms were curious about how she cleverly disguised her daughter's identity in her military career when they saw her long skirt floating and her hair hanging down her shoulders. However, the corresponding lines in the film "black wind and I rod alongside two rabbits running side by side, I think one was a male, one was a female" are too straightforward and casual, and fail to retain the artistic beauty of the original (Cao, 2021). In addition to the above, due to the differences in European and American society, geography, history and other aspects, China and the United States have formed their own unique systems in the long process of development, resulting in huge cultural differences. This difference is reflected in their respective cultures, which makes it difficult for some words with specific cultural meanings to find corresponding words in translation. These words are called "culture loaded words". In the film translation, the treatment of some culture loaded words is not appropriate. Taking the Phoenix role added in the film as an example, it is treated as Phoenix in translation. However, in the western context, Phoenix represents the immortal bird, which is quite different from the auspicious and auspicious meanings represented by Phoenix in Chinese culture. Therefore, this translation method is not appropriate and can not accurately convey the images and meanings in the original culture.

4.2 Difference in Hierarchy Concept

Influenced by Confucianism, China has always paid attention to the concept of hierarchy and integrity. In feudal society, people strictly abide by the three cardinal guides and five standing orders and other ethics. At that time, there were distinct social classes, including monarchs and subjects, elders and juniors, men and women, and so on. The social status

of women in that era was particularly low. They had to obey the wishes of their husbands and fathers at home and were in a very disadvantageous social position. There is a paragraph in *Mulan* CI: "when I went out to see my partner, all my partners were frightened. I didn't know Mulan was a girl after twelve years of traveling together." this reveals that Mulan successfully concealed her female identity in her long military career. She has been living in the army as a male named Hua Mulan and has never been seen through. Considering the social environment at that time, if you expose your daughter on the battlefield, the consequences will be unimaginable. She may be expelled from the army or even executed for the crime of bullying the monarch. It is for this reason that we have seen in the domestic film and television works about Mulan's story that her true identity is usually revealed after Mulan returns to her hometown. In the United States, Christianity is the belief of most people, which advocates equality for all. Therefore, modern Americans are unfamiliar with the concept of hierarchy in China, and they pay more attention to personal values and personality. However, it is worth mentioning that there have been periods of unequal status between men and women in American history. Until the 1960s, with the rise of the feminist movement, the status of women has been significantly improved. This change makes the American concept of equality more in-depth and comprehensive, covering all social levels. When Disney interprets Chinese culture, it inevitably starts from the Western perspective, and unconsciously integrates its own concept of equality into Mulan's story. This practice had a misunderstanding when interpreting Chinese culture, and then in the process of re creation, Mulan exposed her female identity in the army, which was seriously inconsistent with the actual situation of Chinese feudal society.

4.3 Communication Mode Differences

Hall put forward the concept of high and low context. He advocated that all communication can be classified as high context, low context or medium context. In high context communication, information is mainly contained in the physical environment or people's internal state, and only a small amount of information needs to be transmitted in a clear and encoded form. On the contrary, low context communication depends on a large amount of information being clearly encoded and transmitted. In a high context culture, people's way of communication is often consistent with the saying that "only meaning can not be expressed". Speakers tend to use a euphemistic and implicit way, not directly reveal their true intention, but need the listener to understand its true meaning through speculation. In

contrast, in low context culture, people tend to express their thoughts directly and frankly. For the listener, this communication mode can understand the information more effectively, so as to improve the communication efficiency. China is a country with the cultural characteristics of collectivism. It pays great attention to the behavior and status of others in social interaction and tries to avoid hurting or forcing others, which reflects the characteristics of its high context culture. Comparatively speaking, the United States is a country where individualism culture prevails. People tend to express their views directly and clearly in communication, which reflects the characteristics of its low context culture. For this reason, Mulan has expressed her inner feelings frankly many times in the film. This kind of straightforward communication may be difficult for people in the high context cultural background.

4.4 Differences in Traditional Idea

With a splendid history of five thousand years, China's people have been deeply influenced by the "golden mean" and "good heart" in Confucianism and the "unity of heaven and man" in Taoist philosophy. These ideas, including the teachings of Confucius and Mencius and the wisdom of Taoism, blend with each other and jointly build a unique Chinese cultural system (Zheng, 2021). In the ancient tradition, the clear division of labor between men and women has become a vivid embodiment of this system. Under the framework of feudal society, women should abide by their husbands' wishes and their roles and responsibilities. However, after thousands of years of evolution, these concepts have gradually become more open and flexible. The status of women has been significantly improved, and gender equality has gradually become the normal of society. Nevertheless, no matter how the times change, the traditional ideas in the heart of the Chinese people are still deeply rooted. The United States, which has a history of more than 200 years of independence, is less bound by feudal traditional ideas than other countries. In order to escape the feudal autocracy in Europe and pursue freedom and a happy life, the early American immigrants resolutely set foot on the journey of the new world. In this historical context, the American character naturally tends to be open and free. It is precisely because of this deep-rooted ideological difference that when the Disney team tried to interpret Mulan Ci, they failed to fully understand Mulan's deep motivation to join the army for her father. Therefore, when they recreated Mulan in the film, they portrayed her as a female image pursuing self realization.

4.5 Differences in Family Concepts

From a historical perspective, the ethical concepts of China and the United States show distinct differences. This difference is mainly due to the fact that the Chinese people are deeply influenced by the patriarchal system based on consanguineous families. At the same time, its unique geographical environment - the surrounding sea and mountains - also shapes the introverted and conservative thinking characteristics of the Chinese people. In Chinese traditional culture, group consciousness and family concept are regarded as the core elements, and harmonious coexistence has always been the important values it emphasizes. Especially since Dong Zhongshu advocated the concept of "great unification", the collective consciousness of the isomorphism of family and country has been further sublimated and developed, highlighting the Chinese people's unremitting pursuit of social harmony and unity. In Chinese culture under the influence of Confucian culture, the family has been given the core position in society, which stems from the ideological system based on blood relationship. In this system, the progress of the group always takes precedence over the development of the individual. Mencius put forward the five Lun relationship, namely, monarch and subject, father and son, couple, brother and friend. Among them, three Lun relationships are directly related to the family, which further confirms the importance of the family as the cornerstone of national society. At the same time, the concept of family standard has been deeply reflected in the social ethics of "loyalty and filial piety". In Chinese traditional ethics, "filial piety" has always been regarded as the central element, and this virtue has been passed down from generation to generation in the long history of the Chinese nation. However, in sharp contrast to this concept is the individualism advocated by Western civilization, especially American society. Individualism emphasizes the rights and values of individuals, and this idea originated in the European continent. With the gradual deepening of private ownership in the late Middle Ages, family members, including father and son, brothers and husband and wife, all had their own independent private property. These private properties not only provide a solid material basis for everyone's autonomy, but also make the relationship within the family more based on rights and laws. In contrast, patriarchy and husband's power are secondary. In 1620, in order to escape the harsh oppression of the European government, a group of immigrants set foot on the North American continent. This action also marked the unremitting pursuit of freedom and equality by the American people. The spirit of individualism in the United States is embodied in the right of individual autonomy, independent thinking and free choice. As long as the behavior

does not go beyond the boundaries of the law, it will not be interfered by the outside world. However, it is against this cultural background that the Mulan image created by Disney, a role that strongly highlights personal values, has a significant deviation from the Chinese culture deeply infiltrated by Confucianism. This deviation makes it difficult for Chinese audiences to accept this image.

5. CONCLUSION

On the whole, Disney's live action film *Mulan* not only shows the rich elements of Chinese culture, but also reveals the cultural differences in cross-cultural communication. This difference highlights the complexity and diversity of cultural communication in the context of globalization. This gives us a wake-up call, that is, in the future cross-cultural exchanges, we need to understand and respect cultural differences more deeply in order to promote the global spread and integration of culture. In addition, film makers should also pay more attention to the accurate depiction and respect of the historical and cultural background, so as to prevent misleading the audience or causing unnecessary arguments.

References

- Caoyingxue. (2021). An analysis of cultural appropriation embodied in the English lines of Disney live action movie *Mulan*. *Campus English* 11, 246-248.
- Chen, a. (2022). Interpretation of Chinese and western images in Disney live action film *Mulan*. *Modern and ancient cultural creation*, 29, 89-91.
- Gao, x. z. (2022). Cross cultural adaptation and foreign acceptance of "Mulan legend" -- a case study of the live action version of *Mulan*. *Film literature* 08, 117-122.
- He, x., & Liu, C. (2020). A comparative study of Disney *Mulan* animated film and live action film. *Journal of Aesthetic Education*, 06, 65-72.
- Li, W. (2023). Cultural differences of the times and artistic expression -- a cross text comparison of *Hua Mulan*. *Appreciation of Masterpieces*. 26, 109-111.
- Mazihan. (2022). Research on the construction of Chinese images in Hollywood films -- Taking the Disney film *Mulan* as an example. *Comparative Study of Cultural Innovation*, 18, 13-16.
- Wang, j. f. (2023). Narrating the story of *Hua Mulan* from the perspective of narratology * -- Taking "I am *Hua Mulan*" and "Woman Warrior" as examples. *Journal of Hebei Normal University of science and Technology (SOCIAL SCIENCES)*(01), 82-86+112.
- Xujinlong, & Ji, H. (2021). Disney's cross-cultural interpretation of the Chinese *Mulan* legend. *Cultural heritage*, 03, 102-107.
- Yan, H. (2021). Interpretation of the witch image in Disney's live action film *Mulan*. *100 Essays (Theory)*, 08, 59-60.

- Yau, L. Y. (2021). From “Bad Girl” to “Daughter of Hong Kong”: Anita Mui and the Phenomenon of Stardom in Hong Kong Popular Culture. *HKU Theses Online (HKUTO)*.
- Zhang, h. (2022). Misunderstanding and correction of culture: Research on participatory communication of Hua Mulan. *Literature and Art Weekly*, 10, 93-96.
- Zhang, Z. (2021). Interpretation of colonialism and cultural authenticity of Disney embedded films -- Taking the film Mulan as an example. *Journal of global media*, 06, 127-143.
- Zheng, m. (2021). Mulan: Oriental Imagination and cultural misreading. *Film literature*, 05, 118-120.
- Zouxiaolin. (2023). A cross-cultural study of the Disney live action film Mulan. *Drama House* 28, 147-149.