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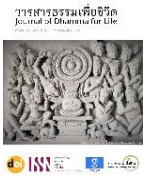

Original Research Article

Study on the Aesthetic Tension between the Assumptions Quote and the Authenticity Quote in Theatre Characterization

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to study 1. To explore the aesthetic tension between the assumptions quot and the Authenticity quot in Theatre Characterisation. 2. To explore the aesthetic phenomenon of the assumptions quot and the Authenticity quot in theatre contributes to the development of theatre art. The research methods include literature survey and interview. The research results illustrate the impact of aesthetic tension on dramatic character creation and actor stage resentation, including in-depth exploration of character connotations, promotion of plot development, and strengthening of theme expression. The research discussion and suggestions section further summarizes and extends the ideas, exploring the aesthetic tension between assumptions and authenticity in the creation of dramatic characters, as well as the aesthetic phenomenon of “assumption” and “authenticity” in drama, which is helpful to the art of drama. development.

Introduction

In the multi-dimensional research field of dramatic art, character creation has always been the core of creation and theoretical research. Drama constructs vivid characters through multi-dimensional expressions such as language, action, and emotion, thereby promoting the development and deepening of the storyline. In this process, “assumption” and “authenticity” are two important aesthetic concepts, and the tension between them has a profound impact on the image creation of dramatic characters. However, current research on this aesthetic phenomenon is still insufficient, especially in terms of theoretical depth and practical case analysis. “Assumptions” refers to the simulation or reconstruction of real life in drama, which allows the creator to play freely within a certain fictional framework and create an artistic reality that transcends reality. This assumption includes not only the arrangement of the plot and the setting of the characters, but also the fictional expression of words, behaviors and even thoughts and emotions. In contrast, “authenticity” emphasizes the faithful reflection and in-depth exploration of the real world in drama works, and pursues the display of the true state of human life in fictional art forms. This kind of reality is not just superficial similarity, but also involves the revelation of deep psychological and social reality.

In the practice of drama creation and performance, how to properly handle the relationship between the two, while maintaining the attractiveness and appeal of the artistic work without losing its depth and thinking value, is a major challenge facing playwrights and actors. From a historical perspective, different drama genres have their own ways of understanding and practicing this. For example, realist drama emphasizes being as close to reality as possible, while symbolist drama relies more on symbols and metaphors to express deep meaning. The diversified cultural background of modern society and the upgrading of technical means also provide new possibilities and challenges for the creation of dramatic characters. The introduction of digital technology has made stage performance methods more diverse, and the application of virtual reality, augmented reality and other technologies has enriched “Assumptions” forms of expression. At the same time, this has also brought new thinking to traditional dramas that pursue “authenticity”. Against this background, exploring how to maintain artistic innovation while also deeply reflecting human nature and social reality has become an urgent problem to be solved.

Based on this, this article explores the aesthetic tension between “assumption” and “authenticity” in the creation of dramatic characters, enriches the research on drama theory, and has important practical significance for improving the creative quality of drama art. Through in depth research on this issue, more effective creative guidance can be provided for drama artists, and at the same time, it can also enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of drama art. Therefore, this study aims to systematically analyze and discuss this topic in order to contribute to the development of dramatic art.

Objectives

1. To explore the aesthetic tension between the assumptions quot and the Authenticity quot in Theatre Characterisation

2. To explore the aesthetic phenomenon of the assumptions quot and the Authenticity quot in theatre contributes to the development of theatre art.

Research Methodology

Literature survey method: Used to sort out previous research results and establish a theoretical basis; Interview method: Used to obtain first-hand information from 2 experts and 1 actor in the field of drama on the specific application of “assumption” and “authenticity” in the creation of dramatic characters, namely:

Name	Type	Job title	Unit
1st person	Expert	Professor, Vice President	Hubei Normal University
2nd person	Expert	Associate Professor, Director of Teaching and Research Section	Jilin University of the Arts
3rd person	Actor	Associate Professor	Beijing People's Art Drama

Rresult

The Aesthetic Tension between the Assumption Quote and the Authenticity Quote in Theatre Characterization

The Formation of Aesthetic Tension Under the Interaction of Assumptions and Authenticity Principles in The Creation of Dramatic Characters

On the stage of dramatic art, actors serve as direct interpreters of characters, and their performance art profoundly affects the formation of aesthetic tension. When actors create characters, they need to follow the two principles of assumption and authenticity, and through the ingenious integration and interaction of the two, create a convincing and tense dramatic effect.

Actors and the Principle of Assumption

The principle of assumption constructs a fictional world beyond reality in drama, providing actors with a broad performance space. Actors need to thoroughly understand the elements of assumption in the script such as fantasy backgrounds, supernatural powers, or unique plot settings and transform these fictional elements into tangible experiences that the audience can perceive through their performances. The true presentation of the fictional world relies on the actors' ability to make these imaginary elements feel real and believable on stage. When performing under the principle of assumption, actors must first establish a sense of belief in the fictional world. They must genuinely believe that the situations they encounter, the events they experience, and the roles they portray are real. This belief not only helps actors immerse themselves more deeply into their characters but also enables the audience to connect emotionally, enhancing the unique charm of these fictional elements.

To bring the elements of assumption to life, actors must utilize various performance techniques, such as body language, vocal modulation, and facial expressions. Additionally, they should incorporate their personal creativity to infuse vitality into their characters. The effective display of these skills and creative interpretations makes the elements of assumption shine with new brilliance on stage, thereby enhancing the aesthetic intensity of the performance.

Actors and the Principle of Authenticity

Deep exploration of emotional resonance. The principle of authenticity requires actors to delve deeply into the character's inner emotional world when shaping their characters, and establish an emotional connection with the audience through true emotional expression. This authenticity is not only reflected in the logic of the character's behavior, but also in the true expression of his emotions. Actors need to truly convey the emotional state of their characters to the audience through delicate performances. Whether it is joy, sadness, anger or fear, actors need to perform it with sincere emotions so that the audience can empathize with them. This true expression of emotion is the key to establishing emotional resonance between the audience and the character. While pursuing emotional truth, actors also need to dig deeper into the human dimension of their characters. They need to understand the influence of factors such as the character's growth background, personality traits, and social environment on his behavior and emotions, so as to more accurately grasp the character's inner world. This profound exploration of human nature makes the character image more three dimensional and fuller, and also enhances the aesthetic depth of the work.

The Interaction between Assumptions and Authenticity

the formation of aesthetic tension. In the actor's performance process, assumption and authenticity do not exist in isolation, but are interdependent and interactive. This interaction promotes the formation of aesthetic tension and gives the drama a unique artistic charm. The actors create a fictional world full of imaginative space for the audience through the presentation of assumptions elements; at the same time, they use real

emotional expressions to give this world emotional authenticity and human depth. This fusion of fiction and reality allows the audience to enjoy a visual feast while also feeling profound emotional resonance and human thinking. The interaction between assumptions and authenticity is also reflected in the conflict and harmony between them. Sometimes, there are contradictions and conflicts between fictional settings and real emotions, which bring strong dramatic tension to the work; and sometimes, they merge and complement each other to form a harmonious and unified beauty. This unity of conflict and harmony is one of the important mechanisms for the formation of aesthetic tension.

To sum up, actors follow the principles of assumption and authenticity in the creation of dramatic characters, and create unique aesthetic tension through the interaction of the two. This tension not only enhances the artistic appeal of the work, but also prompts the audience to gain profound emotional experience and human thinking during the appreciation process. Therefore, in future drama creation, we should pay more attention to the important role of actors in character creation, encourage them to continue to explore and innovate, and bring more excellent drama works to the audience with more exquisite performing arts.

The Impact of Aesthetic Tension on Character Creation in Dramatic Art and Actors' Stage Presentation

The formation of aesthetic tension often stems from the delicate balance and fierce collision between assumption and reality in the script. This tension is most directly manifested in the characterization of characters by the in-depth exploration of the character's connotation and the enhancement of complexity. Through the use of assumptions, playwrights can set

unique backgrounds, personalities or fate trajectories for characters, thereby breaking conventions and challenging audience expectations; while the pursuit of authenticity requires these settings to be emotionally, logically or culturally unique Credibility and the ability to resonate with the audience. Under the influence of aesthetic tension, the character is no longer a single, flat image, but has a rich inner world, complex emotional levels and profound social implications. Aesthetic tension also plays an important role in promoting plot development and constructing dramatic conflicts in dramatic art. When assumptions and reality conflict in character creation, this conflict often becomes a source of motivation that drives the plot forward. Through superb performances, the actors externalize this conflict into dramatic tension that the audience can perceive, allowing the audience to follow the ups and downs of the plot in tension and anticipation. In the classic Chinese drama “Thunderstorm”, the emotional entanglement between Zhou Puyuan and Fan Yi is a typical field of aesthetic tension. Zhou Puyuan's autocracy and indifference and Fan Yi's resistance and pursuit of freedom form a strong conflict between the assumption’s family background and the true emotional needs. This conflict not only promotes the development of the plot, but also builds the core tension of the entire drama, allowing the audience to maintain a high degree of tension and emotional investment during the viewing process.

The ultimate impact of aesthetic tension on character creation in dramatic art is also reflected in the strengthening of theme expression and the deepening of artistic value. Through the interaction of assumption and authenticity, the playwright is able to incorporate profound social implications and philosophical thinking into the character creation, making the work not only entertaining, but also ideological and educational. The actors convey this theme to the audience through their own performances, guiding them to think about the meaning of life, the current situation of society and the nature of human nature. For example, in the absurd play “Waiting for Godot”, Godot, a character who has never appeared, has become a symbol, representing mankind's eternal pursuit of the unknown, hope and redemption. Through the waiting experience of two tramps, Beckett cleverly reveals the loneliness, confusion and despair of human beings in modern society. This profound thematic expression is based on the aesthetic tension between assumption and authenticity, which gives the work artistic value and social significance that transcends the times.

The Impact of Aesthetic Tension on Actors’ Stage Presentation

Aesthetic tension provides actors with a broad creative space for their stage presentation. When facing a role full of tension, actors need to use their imagination, creativity and in depth understanding of the role to transform the characters in the text into vivid images on the stage. This creative process not only tests the actors' performance skills and artistic accomplishment, but also stimulates their creativity and performance passion.

Aesthetic tension also prompts actors to gradually form their own unique performance style and artistic personality in stage presentation. When faced with tense characters and plots, actors need to interpret the character based on their own understanding and feelings and show the unique charm of the character through their own performance style. This personalized performance style not only makes the actors stand out on the stage but also brings a richer viewing experience to the audience.

To sum up, aesthetic tension plays a vital role in the characterization of dramatic art and the stage presentation of actors. It deepens the connotation of the character, promotes the

development of the plot, strengthens the expression of the theme, stimulates the creativity of the actors, enhances emotional expression, and creates a unique performance style.

The Aesthetic Phenomenon of the Assumptions Quote and The Authenticity Quote in Theatre Contributes to the Development of Theatre Art.

Assumptions aesthetic qualities are summarized in fictional structures and explorations of meaning. Assumption in the creation of dramatic characters is first reflected in the transcendence and reconstruction of the real world. It allows the playwright to construct a unique and symbolic dramatic world through fictional plots, scenes and character relationships. This kind of fiction is not a meaningless fabrication, but is based on a profound insight into human life, emotions and social phenomena. Through artistic processing and refinement, it is presented in a more concentrated, intense and typical way.

The use of assumptions allows dramatic characters to show more complex and profound character traits within a fictional framework. Take Shakespeare's “Hamlet” as an example. The ghost's revenge plot in the play obviously transcends the logic of real life, but it is these assumptions setting that provides the possibility for a deep exploration of Hamlet's inner world. After Hamlet learned the truth about his father's murder, he fell into deep contemplation and pain. His indecision, desire for revenge, and moral struggle were infinitely magnified under the assumption’s framework, becoming an exploration of human nature and Classic issues of existence and morality.

Assumption often enhances the artistic effect of dramatic character creation through symbolism and metaphor. In the absurd play “Waiting for Godot”, the character Godot never appears. He has become a symbol, representing mankind's eternal pursuit of the unknown, hope and redemption. These assumptions setting makes the actions and dialogues of the characters in the play full of symbolic meaning, leading the audience to have a profound reflection on life, society and existence.

The aesthetic qualities of authenticity are summarized as emotional resonance and exploration of human nature. As opposed to assumptions, authenticity pursues emotional resonance and human exploration with the audience in the creation of dramatic characters. It requires the playwright to create realistic characters and plot development within a fictional framework, so that the audience can resonate and identify with it during the viewing process.

Authenticity is first reflected in the delicate depiction of the characters' emotions. In “Romeo and Juliet”, Shakespeare depicts the love tragedy of two young lovers through delicate brushwork. Their emotions are pure and passionate. Faced with family hatred and social oppression, they choose to defend love with their lives. This sincere and profound emotional expression inspired the audience's deepest resonance and emotion, making this work an eternal love classic.

In addition to emotional resonance, authenticity requires playwrights to tap into the complexity and multifaceted nature of human nature in their characterization. In “A Doll's House”, Ibsen reveals the plight and struggle of women in family and society through the character of Nora. Nora gradually awakens from a housewife who is dependent on her husband and blindly obedient to a woman who pursues independence and self-worth. In this process, the contradictions, struggles and growth she experienced were not only an exploration of personal destiny, but also a profound revelation of the deep desire for freedom, equality and dignity in human nature.

In dramatic characterization, assumptions and authenticity are not isolated aesthetic qualities, but interdependent and interactive. Assumption provides a broad creative space and profound symbolic meaning for authenticity; authenticity gives vitality and appeal to assumptions, making it no longer an empty fiction, but an artistic image that can touch people's hearts. In “Les Misérables”, Hugo used fictional historical backgrounds and characters' fates to show the social turmoil and human struggle during the French Revolution. However, it is through the real and touching characters such as Jean Valjean and Fantine, as well as the emotional entanglement and intertwined fate between them, that this work has a strong sense of reality and humanistic care. This interactive relationship between assumption and authenticity not only enhances the artistic appeal of the work, but also deepens the audience's thinking about history, society and human nature.

To achieve an effective blend of assumptions and reality, playwrights need keen insight and profound artistic skills. They need to create realistic characters and plot developments within a fictional framework; at the same time, they need to imbue these images and plots with profound symbolic meaning and cultural connotation through symbols, metaphors and other techniques. Only in this way can we create excellent dramatic works that have both artistic value and social significance.

Discussion

The findings in this study about the interactive relationship between theatre creation and performing arts have some convergence with previous studies. This study found that the actors' interpretation and creation of assumptive elements in their performances added unique charms to their characters, which is in line with previous studies on the importance of assumptions in theatre creation.

The results of this study complement and develop the previous theories. In his study, Yan Ming (2023) emphasised the key role of authenticity in theatre, while this study further points out that the formation of aesthetic tension does not only depend on the separate existence of assumptions and authenticity, but also lies in the dynamic balance and interplay between the two in the process of the actor's performance. Actors need to deeply grasp this balance on the basis of understanding the role in order to present a stage image that is both authentic and artistically compelling. Through comparison, it is found that there is relatively little research on the relationship between actors‘ performance skills and aesthetic tension at this stage, while this study clearly points out the key role of actors’ performance skills in realising the balance between assumptions and authenticity, as well as its important influence on the formation of aesthetic tension. In summary, this study validates and enriches to a certain extent the previous theories on assumptions and authenticity in theatre, and provides new perspectives and grounds for further understanding of the nature and development of theatre art.

Conclusion

This study explores the aesthetic tension between ‘assumptions’ and ‘authenticity’ in dramatic characterisation, and analyses their important role in the excavation of character connotations, plot development and theme expression. The results of the study point out that assumptions creates the background and character of a character, while authenticity ensures the credibility of emotion and logic, and the interaction between the two makes the character image rich and emotionally complex. It is recommended to improve the quality of actors,

innovate the forms of expression, and strengthen theatre education in order to enhance the aesthetic tension and promote the development of the art.

Suggestions

Enhance the quality and artistic cultivation of actors so as to better understand the scripts and roles, and improve the authenticity and infectiousness of performances.

Innovate the form of theatre expression, such as using multimedia and virtual reality technology, to enhance the visual effect and artistic expression, and enrich the audience's experience.

Suggestions for Future Research on Aesthetic Tension in Theatre Performance

Building on the findings of this study, there are several avenues for future research that could further elucidate the relationship between assumptions, authenticity, and aesthetic tension in theatrical performance. This study highlights the importance of the dynamic balance between these elements and the key role of actors' performance skills in shaping a compelling stage image. To expand and deepen these insights, future research should focus on three main areas: enhancing the understanding of actors' performance skills, exploring innovative theatre techniques, and strengthening theatre education and training.

1. Deepening the Exploration of Actors' Performance Skills and Aesthetic Tension

One promising area for further research involves a more detailed investigation into how actors' performance skills directly contribute to the formation of aesthetic tension. While the present study emphasizes the significance of balancing assumptions and authenticity, future research could examine how specific acting methodologies influence this balance. For instance, comparative analyses of acting systems—such as Stanislavski's emotional realism and Brecht's alienation effect—could reveal how different techniques either heighten or reduce aesthetic tension. Additionally, longitudinal studies observing actors' interpretative processes during rehearsals may offer valuable insights into how performers navigate the dynamic interplay between fictional assumptions and emotional authenticity over time.

Moreover, future research could explore the role of actors' emotional memory and physical embodiment in creating authentic yet imaginative performances. Investigating how actors integrate personal experiences with their interpretative choices may clarify how deeply internalized emotions can enhance or disrupt the balance between the imaginative framework and realistic portrayal. By focusing on these practical aspects of performance, researchers could provide more nuanced explanations for how actors cultivate and sustain aesthetic tension in live theatre.

2. Expanding Research on Innovative Theatre Techniques

As theatre continues to evolve in response to technological advancements, another critical area for future research lies in exploring how innovative forms of theatrical expression impact the relationship between assumptions and authenticity. The use of multimedia, virtual reality (VR), and augmented reality (AR) in theatrical productions opens new possibilities for expanding the boundaries of both imagination and realism. Future studies could analyze how these technologies shape audience perceptions of authenticity and whether they heighten or diminish the emotional and intellectual engagement required to sustain aesthetic tension.

Additionally, immersive and participatory theatre formats present unique challenges and opportunities for exploring aesthetic tension. These formats, which often blur the line between performance and reality, may offer valuable case studies for understanding how audience involvement influences the balance between fictional assumptions and emotional authenticity. By examining how emerging technologies and interactive performance styles reshape audience engagement, future research can shed light on the evolving nature of aesthetic tension in contemporary theatre.

3. Strengthening Theatre Education and Training

Given the central role of actors' performance skills in maintaining aesthetic tension, future research should also focus on enhancing theatre education and training. It is essential to develop comprehensive training models that equip actors with the interpretative and technical skills necessary to navigate the complex relationship between assumptions and authenticity. One potential avenue for research is the design and evaluation of specialized workshops that emphasize the practical application of these concepts. Such programs could focus on developing actors' capacity to interpret scripts with greater depth while maintaining a dynamic and emotionally resonant stage presence.

Furthermore, interdisciplinary collaboration between theatre practitioners and scholars from fields such as psychology and media studies could enrich training methodologies. For example, incorporating insights from cognitive science on emotion and perception might help actors refine their ability to evoke authentic responses while working within fictional frameworks. Research in this area could also investigate how training programs can adapt to new performance environments that integrate digital and immersive technologies. Strengthening theatre education in these ways would not only enhance the artistic cultivation of actors but also contribute to the broader development of theatrical artistry and innovation.

4. Broadening the Scope of Comparative Analysis

Another important direction for future research is the comparative analysis of aesthetic tension across different cultural and theatrical traditions. By examining how various cultural contexts interpret and manage the interplay between assumptions and authenticity, researchers can gain a more global perspective on the formation of aesthetic tension. Comparative studies could investigate how cultural values influence actors' approaches to performance and how these variations affect audience engagement and emotional responses.

Additionally, future research could explore how aesthetic tension functions across diverse theatrical genres, such as tragedy, comedy, and physical theatre. Different genres may require distinct balances between imaginative assumptions and emotional authenticity, and studying these variations could reveal new dimensions of how aesthetic tension operates in performance. Moreover, analyzing the relationship between aesthetic tension and socio-political contexts could provide insights into how theatre reflects and responds to societal changes. Such research would enhance the theoretical framework of aesthetic tension while offering practical knowledge for contemporary theatre-makers.

In conclusion, this study has laid the foundation for understanding the intricate relationship between assumptions, authenticity, and aesthetic tension in theatre performance. However, there remain numerous opportunities for future research to deepen and expand these insights. Investigating the nuances of actors' performance skills, exploring the impact of

emerging theatrical technologies, strengthening educational frameworks, and conducting cross-cultural comparative analyses are all promising avenues for further inquiry. Pursuing these research directions will not only enhance the theoretical understanding of aesthetic tension but also contribute to the ongoing evolution of theatre as a vital and dynamic art form.

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