



English Language and Cultural Identity: A Philosophical Examination of Multiculturalism and Nationalism in Contemporary Writing

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ABSTRACT

As a global language, English speakers in different cultures are faced with philosophical considerations such as cultural identity and national sentiment. Therefore, the topic of English language and cultural identity: a philosophical examination of multiculturalism and nationalism in contemporary writing is studied. The philosophical basis of multiculturalism is analyzed, and the identity problems of communitarianism and liberalism are elaborated. Discusses the meaning of nationalism and expresses the political science of the concept of nation in English cultural identity. Define English language and cultural identity, and give two positions for conceptualizing cultural identity. From the aspects of cultural identity: self-positioning and expression in contemporary writing; cultural identity: the pursuit of values and resonance in the context of multiculturalism; and cultural conflict: tension and reconciliation in writing, the philosophical reflections on multiculturalism and nationalism in contemporary writing are proposed. Through the above research, we aim to enrich the connotation of English literature, enhance the understanding and communication between different cultures, and provide theoretical support for the development of multiculturalism.

Keywords: English Language; Cultural Identity; Contemporary Writing; Multiculturalism; Nationalism; Philosophical Examination.

INTRODUCTION

Philosophical concepts have been widely discussed and summarized in twelve points of view. The first viewpoint: wisdom. Philosophy is a kind of wisdom, and the wisdom of philosophy lies in only one thing, which is to recognize and master all thoughts. The second viewpoint: the theory of essence. Philosophy is considered to be the highest explanation of the origin and ultimate cause of the world, and it is able to trace back the origin of history and regard elements such as fire, water, and atoms as the origin of the world, and then recognize the essence of the elements according to philosophical thought ^[1-3]. The third viewpoint: the theory of universal laws. Philosophy can discover the history that is summarized as the highest, most essential, and most universal law. The fourth viewpoint: Metaphysical theory. Philosophy is the highest intellectual statement of the ultimate cause, origin, and essence behind things. The fifth viewpoint: Worldview theory. Philosophy is able to reflect the relationship between human beings and the world, providing a spiritual world between nature, society, and human beings ^[4-6]. The sixth viewpoint: life view. Philosophy is related to life and teaches the doctrine of human attitude that can withstand suffering and trials and can understand the meaning of life. The seventh viewpoint: Ontology. The core of philosophy is ontology, and it talks about the development of philosophy with authority and certainty, and reflects on the core of human cognitive theory. The eighth viewpoint: epistemology. From the point of view of the object of study and the nature of theory, philosophy takes ontology as its object, cognition as its logic, and identity as its point of view, and has a vast impact on social life ^[7-9]. The ninth viewpoint: the way of thinking theory. Philosophy is related to human thinking ability, and according to thinking and laws, it forms the logic and laws of thinking. The tenth viewpoint: the theory of practice. This theory is centered on "real human beings" and "sensual activities," and it seeks to draw conclusions about historical development and future development. The eleventh viewpoint: the realm theory. Philosophy is a culture, a value, and an activity of purification, and is an indispensable element of the meaning of life. The twelfth viewpoint: Criticism. Criticism is the essence of philosophy. Criticism of knowledge, reason and society can be developed through self-denial. There are different philosophical reflections in English language in different cultural backgrounds ^[10-12]. Therefore, this paper investigates the topic of English language and cultural identity: a philosophical examination of multiculturalism and nationalism in contemporary writing.

1 PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE THEORY OF MULTICULTURALISM

Multiculturalism includes communitarianism and liberalism. Communitarianism brings two challenges to liberalism. On the basis of defending liberalism, it emphasizes that a healthy and stable democratic society needs not only democratic mechanisms, but also moral integrity^[13-15]. The issue of identity in the multicultural context has the fundamental characteristics of profound diversity and cultural diversity. In modern society, the belief in individual autonomy is deep and extensive, and the author's identity cannot be separated from the social and cultural background. Therefore, multiculturalism involves the issue of collective rights. In terms of writing, there will be some problems of non integration, which will affect the perception of readers. The changes in the philosophical basis of multiculturalism are shown in Figure 1 below.

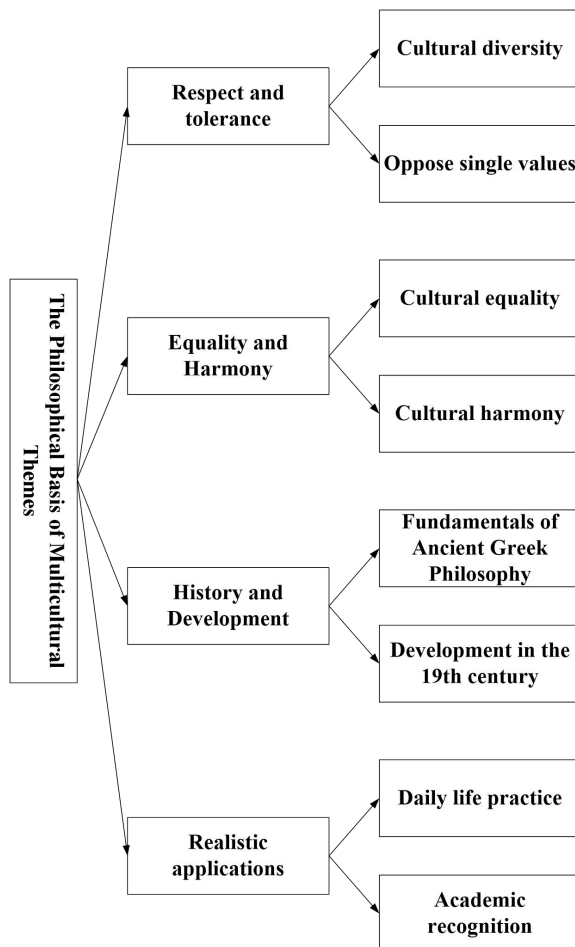


Figure 1 Conceptual map of the philosophical underpinnings of the theory of multiculturalism

As shown in figure 1, cultural diversity encompasses different cultures, beliefs and values, which have independent values and meanings. Opposition to a single value can limit the expression and development of different cultures. Ancient Greek philosophers believed that different cultures have unique values and can be integrated with each other^[16]. Multiculturalism was widely developed in the 19th century and recognized in the academic field. In daily life practice, respecting and tolerating different cultures has become a practical condition of daily life, which is of great significance for contemporary writing.

2 THE CONNOTATIONS OF NATIONALISM

Nationalism mainly expresses the concept of the nation based on the meaning of blood and ethnicity, the national originalist, but also undeniable modernity is inseparable from the nation, emphasizing the modernity of the nation^[17-19]. The nation is based on a strengthened concept of ethnicity, deriving a national spirit, with national fatalism. Adding nationalism to writing tends to increase casual conflicts between cultures and ethnic groups. The state of development of nationalism is shown in figure 2 below.

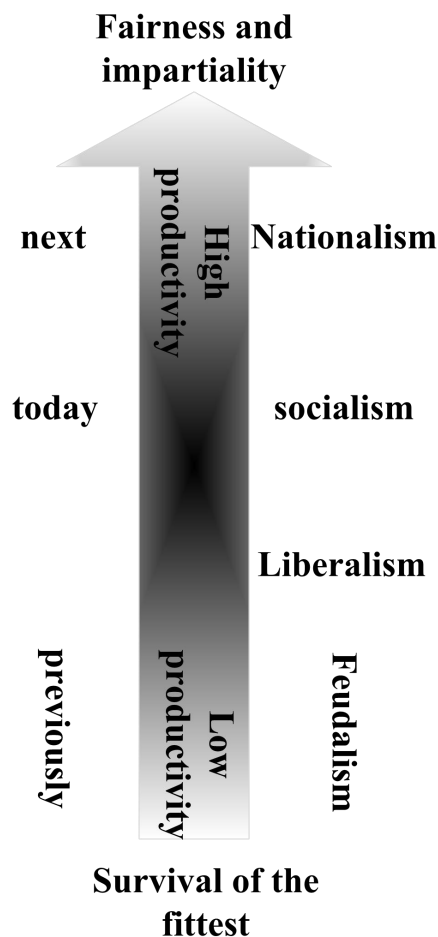


Figure 2 Schematic representation of nationalism

As shown in Figure 2, nationalism has taken shape under different political, economic, and social systems, including social, capital, and communist, emphasizing the inheritance and development of national culture. Nationalism has different manifestations in different historical and cultural contexts, but it always revolves around national identity and interests^[20-22]. As a social ideology, nationalism provides writers with rich materials and sources of inspiration. By depicting elements of national history, culture and traditions, the uniqueness and charm of the nation is displayed, thus triggering the reader's empathy for national identity and sense of belonging.

3 DEFINITIONS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL IDENTITY

There is no clear-cut way to define cultural identity in the academic world, and it is common to use a certain dimension of cultural identity or research interest to define cultural identity. As a common language for international communication, the English language carries a rich cultural connotation and historical background^[23]. The formation of cultural identity is influenced by various factors such as history, geography, society, religion, art and so on, forming a complex and multidimensional concept. The definitions of English language and cultural identity in different dimensions are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Table of definitions of English language and cultural identity under different dimensions

Dimension	English Language Definition	Definition of cultural identity
Basic concepts	English is a globally recognized language with extensive communication functions	Cultural identity refers to the self-awareness and sense of belonging formed by individuals or groups in a specific cultural context
Forming factors	Including historical evolution, regional differences, social changes, etc	Influenced by language, customs, beliefs, values, historical traditions, and other factors
Characteristic performance	The universality, flexibility, expressive power, etc. of language	The embodiment of cultural characteristics, the inheritance of values, the embodiment of national spirit, etc

Functional role	Communication, education, cultural heritage, international exchange, etc	Construction of self-awareness, formation of cultural belonging, strengthening of national identity, etc
Relationship with cultural identity	English as a communication tool promotes the expression and exchange of cultural identity	Cultural identity is manifested and disseminated through the English language, and the two are interdependent

As shown in Table 1, this paper defines English language and cultural identity from several dimensions, such as basic concepts, formative factors, characteristic manifestations, functional roles, and the relationship with cultural identity, which can better understand and grasp the relationship between the two. In the relationship between English language and cultural identity, language becomes an important medium for expressing and disseminating cultural identity^[24]. Through the English language, authors are able to express the cultural characteristics, traditions and values of the country they live in and form a more distinctive cultural identity. At the same time, the process of writing and understanding in the English language can help to broaden the path of writing by understanding and accepting other cultures.

4 PHILOSOPHICAL REFLECTIONS ON MULTICULTURALISM AND NATIONALISM IN CONTEMPORARY WRITING

4.1 Cultural Identity: Self-positioning and expression in contemporary writing

In the field of writing, cultural identity not only influences writers' creative styles and content choices, but is also an important carrier of their self-orientation and expression^[25]. By exploring the significance of multiculturalism in cultural identity, we can understand the cultural identity conveyed by authors through their works. The manifestation and influence of cultural identity in contemporary writing are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Table of Cultural Identity in Contemporary Writing and its Influence

Dimension	The embodiment of cultural identity in contemporary writing
Self positioning	Writers convey their cultural values, beliefs, and customs through their works, showcasing unique cultural perspectives and positions
Expressions	Writers use language, narrative techniques, plot design, and other means to express their understanding and identification with cultural identity
Cultural elements	Incorporating specific cultural symbols, symbols, traditional stories, and other elements into cultural works reflects the uniqueness of cultural identity
Cultural Conflict and Integration	Describing conflicts, collisions, and integrations between different cultures, showcasing the tension and reconciliation of cultural identity in a multicultural context
Cultural inheritance and innovation	By inheriting and promoting national culture through works, while absorbing excellent elements from other cultures, we can achieve innovation and development of cultural identity
social influence	The expression of cultural identity in the work resonates with readers, promotes cultural exchange and understanding, and promotes social harmony and development

As shown in Table 2, this paper demonstrates the embodiment and influence of cultural identity in contemporary writing from the dimensions of self-positioning, expression, cultural elements, cultural conflict and fusion, cultural inheritance and innovation, and social influence. The above manifestations and influences can play an important role in many application scenarios. In the scenario of literary criticism and analysis, by comparing and analyzing the performance of different writers and works in the dimension of cultural identity, the diversity and complexity of cultural identity in literature can be revealed. In the scenarios of literary creation guidance, we can add our own thoughts on cultural identity, consciously incorporate cultural elements, and show cultural conflicts and integration. In education and academic research scenarios, they are used to teach students how to analyze the expression of cultural identity in literary works. In cultural exchange and dissemination scenarios, it is used to recognize and understand different cultures through the expression of cultural identities in literary works of different cultural backgrounds, so as to promote cultural exchanges. In the scenario of cultural policy making and implementation, through the expression of cultural identity, students can understand the needs and demands of different cultural groups, so as to formulate cultural policies that are more in line with the reality.

4.2 Cultural Identity: Pursuit of values and empathy in a multicultural context

Cultural identity as the degree of individual's cognition and acceptance of the culture to which he or she belongs, the writing paradigm contains the regularity of common display, which indicates the rules of word-formation changes in grammar, and is the key to determining the essence and orientation of the essay. Only when one truly understands and accepts one's own culture can one express it in an essay. In a multicultural environment, writers express themselves confidently, release their nature, and

convey the pursuit of values, thus realizing their self-worth. The value orientation of contemporary writing is shown in Figure 3 below.

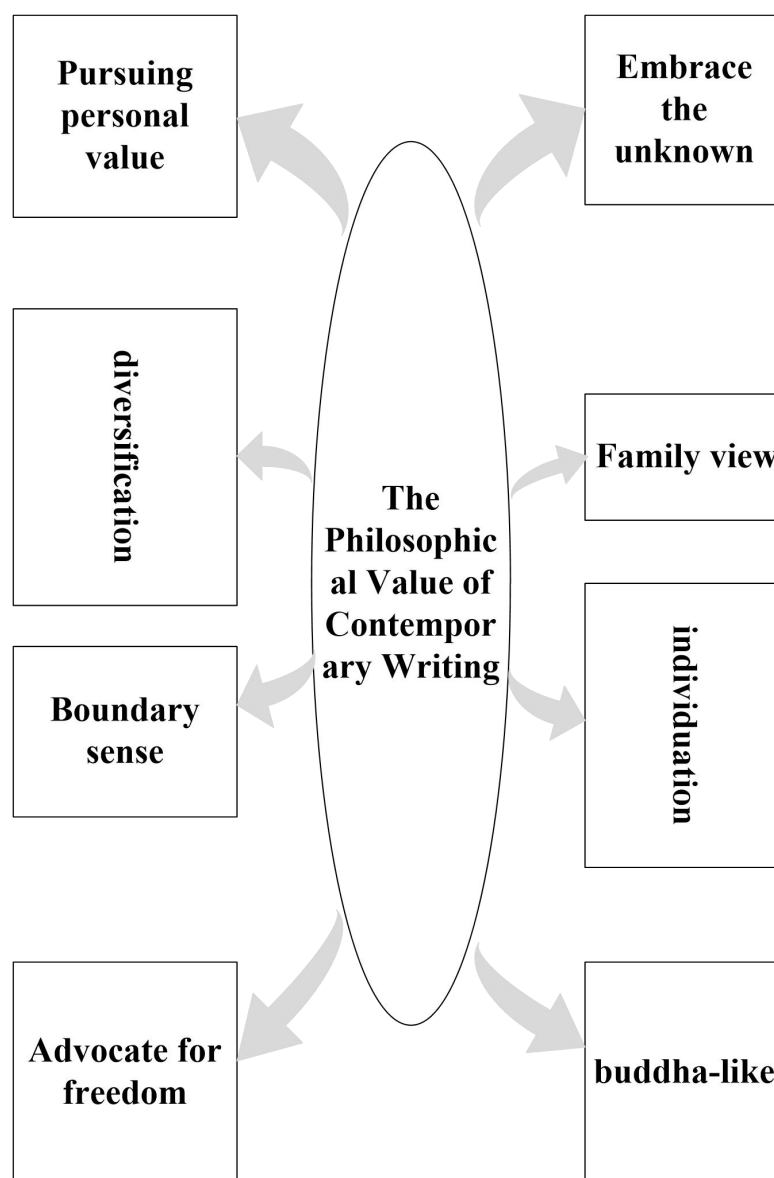


Figure 3 A view of the values of contemporary writing

As shown in Figure 3, the value orientation of contemporary writing includes personal value, diversity, sense of boundaries, freedom, unknown, family view, personalization, Buddhism and other aspects. The pursuit of personal value is the independence of personality and compliance with inner value coordinates. Pluralism is the lack of universal values, and writing with the attitude that existence is reasonable and accepting all rivers. Sense of boundaries, emphasize personal privacy and social distance, and focus on emotional values in their writing. Freedom is the value of a good life, low economic pressure, and the pursuit of freedom. Embrace the unknown, value challenges and unknowns, and pursue new things. Family values, focusing on the sense of responsibility, understanding, love and support for the family. Individualized, with a strong sense of individuality, choosing to write according to one's own sense of self. Buddhist, contentment, light-heartedness, and the pursuit of inner peace. As a result, the Free Exploration, Multiculturalism, Boundary Exploration, Value Pursuit, Challenge of the Unknown, Family Warmth, Personalized Expression, and Buddhist Philosophy of Life have been formed. Readers can choose to read them according to their own preferences, thus strengthening the integration of English language and cultural identity.

4.3 Culture Clash: Tension and reconciliation in writing

In the context of global cultural change, cultural clashes are essential. The clash of cultures has enriched the diversity of writing cultures, but it has also given rise to many kinds of conflicts. Values, religious beliefs, customs and habits are the opposing elements of cultural conflicts. In the process of writing, the opposing elements form a strong tension. The tension exists in the text, interacting and conflicting, which can stimulate readers' discussion and thinking. In the environment of cultural conflict, by portraying opposing cultural images and presenting opposing cultural forms, it not only enhances the artistic expression, but also strengthens the dramatic atmosphere of the article. However, it is not enough to only show tension and conflict, but also need to find cultural reconciliation and integration in the article. Reconciliation does not mean the disappearance of cultures, but respect,

understanding, and finding out the common points of different cultures, so as to realize cultural integration. In order to realize cultural integration, it is necessary to enhance the English language writing ability. The English writing ability scale is shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3 English Writing Proficiency Scale

Level	Ability
	Having reading ability, able to understand textual information and simple charts
	Having the ability of logical thinking, understanding the methods of logical thinking such as analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, and comparison
Beginner	Clear writing purpose
	Consciously considering the writing object, author, and their interrelationships (such as hierarchical relationships and peer relationships), and reflecting them in language expression
	Consciously consider the subjective and objective environment of writing. Analyzing factors such as quietness, anxiety, and social and cultural differences in the actual writing environment
	Understand and understand the basic components of genre competence
	Possess solid language knowledge. Master necessary grammar knowledge such as vocabulary, usage, syntax, tense, voice, etc
	Consciously emphasizing discourse coherence and rhetoric
	Strive for comprehensive writing content and complete expression of meaning. The article can cover all the key points given and the meaning is complete
	Pay attention to language use in communication and emphasize the principle of politeness
	The types of genres that should be mastered and their requirements
	Possess and demonstrate good reading and comprehension abilities
	Be able to fully consider the writing object, author, and their interrelationships, and reflect them in language expression. Be able to fully consider the subjective and objective environment of writing. Discourse coherence and appropriate rhetoric
Qualified level	Possess and demonstrate good genre skills
	Be able to pay attention to language use in communication, use conversational meanings or hints reasonably to achieve expected goals, and adhere to the principle of politeness
	Possess and demonstrate good strategic abilities. Capable of conceptualizing, creating, and modifying, and reflecting in writing the ability to connect with one's own background knowledge. Utilizing resources such as the internet, reference books, or disguised expressions to ensure smooth completion of writing

As shown in table 3, the Contemporary Writing Skills Scale is categorized into three levels, introductory, passing and excellent. Among them, the introductory level and qualified level are reflected in the above table. The excellent level needs to be further optimized on the basis of the qualified level. The ability to take into account the social and cultural factors in written communication and the ability to analyze and regulate the subjective, intellectual and non-intellectual factors of individuals, so that readers can understand what the author is saying and thus empathize with what they are reading. The scale combines English language proficiency theory, writing theory, genre theory, demand analysis theory and scale theory, and is based on the theory of writing demand, which can maximize the quality of English writing.

5 CONCLUSION

Philosophy is capable of producing the three fruits of good thinking, good speech and good action based on wisdom, and plays an important role in the future development of mankind. It is fundamentally different from other sciences and generates knowledge with universal principles in accordance with the development and laws of human society and the movement of

thought. The non-practicality of philosophy is its greatest characteristic and advantage. From a rational point of view, the inner essence of philosophy beyond sense perception is the core content of philosophy. After an in-depth exploration of the topic of English language and cultural identity: a philosophical examination of multiculturalism and nationalism in contemporary writing, it is found that there is an inextricable relationship between cultural identity and language. Through the aspects of cultural identity, cultural recognition and cultural conflict, the differences and commonalities between different cultures are understood, thus enhancing the cultural sensitivity and inclusiveness of English writing. At the same time, in the process of pursuing multiculturalism and nationalism, it is necessary to combine with other social time, so that culture, doctrine and practice can jointly promote the diversity and harmonious development of writing culture.

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