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摘 要

威廉·梅克皮斯·萨克雷是十九世纪英国最杰出的批判现实主义小说家之一。《名利场》是他的代表作。萨克雷以圆熟泼辣的手笔，淋漓尽致地描述了一幅十九世纪英国贵族资产阶级上层骄奢淫逸、勾心斗角的生活图景，刻画了两位截然不同的女性形象贝基·夏普和艾米利亚·亚塞得利。本论文运用女性主义理论分析威廉·梅克皮斯·萨克雷的小说《名利场》中两位女主人公的形象，来揭示女性在十九世纪的英国社会的生活状态以及此时英国社会中中产阶级女性的社会价值观，进而帮助读者从各个方面了解十九世纪英国的社会背景。同时本论文运用女性主义理论旨在唤醒女性的自我意识，实现女性价值，追求两性平等。

【关键词】 萨克雷《名利场》；女性主义；女性形象

1 Introduction

1.1 Background and significance

Vanity Fair is one of the most important works of British critical realism novel written by William Makepeace Thackeray. In this story, he describes two protagonists Rebecca Sharp and Amelia Sedley, both are full of tragedy in their life. There are a lot of differences between them, including family background and social experience, so that they have different character and personality. On the one hand, Rebecca Sharp has a strong sense of self-awareness, courage, independence and calm like a man. On the other hand, she is self-interested, caustic, heartless, cunning and hypocritical. The article describes her demoralization, and she is full of cunning tricks. But no matter how she struggles, she could not escape the fate of depending on men to step in the upper class. The other woman, Amelia, is beautiful, kind and pure. Besides, she is selfless dedication. But she is too blind to love, too dependent on male power. Her weak character makes she can not live well. What she shows are the characteristics in Victorian, the male power dominant all society.

Vanity Fair focuses on the whole live of two young women, Rebecca Sharp and Amelia Sedley, who lives with a strong sense of tragedy. The story is set in Britain during the regent period in the early 19th century, and mainly depicts the interpersonal relationship and life of the declining aristocracy and bourgeoisie in the upper class.

There's a beautiful, good-natured and pure, but a little stupid, clumsy girl, Amelia Sedley, she is born in a wealthy family. The other girl, Rebecca Sharp, is self-interested, acerbic and heartless, and she is born into a poor family, has a low class and poor life. Therefore, she tries her best to struggle to change her life and step in the upper class.

This thesis intends to use feminist theory to analyze the images of the two heroines in *Vanity Fair*, with the aim of revealing the living conditions of women in the 19th century British society and the social values of middle-class women at this time, and then to help readers understand the social background of the 19th century British society from all aspects. In addition, this thesis uses feminist theory to advocate women to reflect on themselves, awaken women's self-consciousness, realize women's value, pursue gender equality, and bravely pursue their own life.

1.2 Introduction of William Makepeace Thackeray and The Vanity Fair

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