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# 《影视英语与文化》

## 课程论文

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*The Construction of the Devil Wears*

*Prada and his Influence on American*

题 目 : Feminism Culture

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## The Construction of *the Devil Wears Prada* and his Influence on American Feminism Culture

**Abstract:** This movie is about a girl who has entered the workplace. After entering a top magazine business, she has been a fashionable person after pained exercises. In the film the “devil” wears Prada is Andy's boss, who is the representative of feminism in the United States, and entering the workplace of Andy is a potential feminist. This film is very helpful for us to explore the feminism in the United States. This paper begins with the basic cultural connotation of the film, and further explores the American feminist culture behind it.

**Key words:** Feminism, American culture, the queen of Prada

### 1. The American culture behind Prada's Queen

The film is very American, and its whole narrative is compact but interesting. The humor is the core of American culture which emphasizes the personality of the people. The character of the film is distinct and has a strong personal color. From the view of the whole film, it is full of gorgeous and fashionable elements, which embody the pragmatism and materialism of the American. What they advocate is the abundance of material and encouraging people to make progress. For example, in the *38 Letters Rockefeller Wrote to His Son*, "Attitude is our best partner, and the most difficult enemy we have." (Rockefeller, 2012, p.5) this is the representative of the American entrepreneurial spirit, which embodies the brave and enterprising of the Americans for their own goals. American culture grew up in the war. They worshipped the strong, whether superman or Spiderman, whether Washington or Roosevelt, they were looking for a hero for themselves. In the film *the devil wears Prada*, Miranda is a hero that she never fears. She can summon wind and call for rain, the film was a big success but also conforms to the American aesthetic psychology. Secondly, it reveals the dark side of

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the power struggle within the United States. The fight for power in the film is full of money. No friendship in the manager's eyes, they don't care about the feelings of Miranda, seeking to maximize the interests of. This is actually a reflection of the malpractice of capitalism. The naked relationship of money is an important reason for Andy to choose to leave. But the other kind of sentiment shown in the film, the humanistic care in the United States, is also reflected at the end of the film. Miranda wrote an exuberant letter of recommendation for Andy, and she finally affirmed Andy. This warmth leaves the film at the end of the temperature.

## 2. The history of American feminist culture

The American culture just mentioned is only part of the film. The core of the film is from feminism. Around the end of the nineteenth Century, it was the first wave of the women's liberation movement. At that time, the focus of the debate was gender equality, including equality between men and women. The most important goal is to strive for the equivalence of labor and social labor and the same value of political rights, which is often called the "feminist movement". It was believed that the second women's liberation movement originated in the United States as early as the 20th 60s and 70s, and the movement continued until 80s. Its keynote is to emphasize the natural nature of the division of labor between the sexes and eliminate the phenomenon of equal remuneration for men and women. It is required to ignore the view that the difference between the sexes is seen as the basis of a male in the relationship between the sexes. They are required to be open to the public, and so on. Another result of the second feminist movement is the rise of gender studies and feminist academic studies. In fact, there is no lack of work on feminism in history, and many wonderful films are also novels adapted from female subjects. As early as in nineteenth Century, the English writer Charlotte Bronte wrote *Jane Eyre* which once said, "Do you think I am poor, humble, not beautiful or small, do I have no heart? You are wrong, I have as much soul as you, as full heart."(Charlotte Bronte, 2016, p.352). This is in line with the content of Andy's constant struggle for the value of his own. American culture is largely a

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combination of the essence of Europe. The novel *Gone with the wind* which created by the American writer Margaret Mitchell in 1930's, is also the core of the female growth. When Scarlett grew up in the war and said, "After all, tomorrow is another day" (Margaret Mitchell, 2012, p.694), which touched me by the strength of the women. As Miranda in the film faced the crisis, she was not afraid but prepared for it. She abandoned her friends for years and finally won the competition. Andy is also the same, from the beginning of the work to the later independent thinking, she has the courage to give up her own decent work, then pursues the real happiness. It embodies the independence and strength of women. It is not difficult to find that this film is telling a story of a feminine transformation. The process of growing up is the process of feminism.

### 3. Conclusion

The film has become a classic, in essence it has moved us with its cultural connotations. Our hearts admire heroes, especially women. Americans have been pursuing the emancipation and independence of the personality, especially the growing up women. They pursue equality and freedom and pursue their own value. American feminist culture is influenced by Simone de Beauvoir, especially her book *secondary*, which was published in France in 1949, comprehensive discussion since ancient times a woman in a male dominated world reduced to other secondary situation, challenge all the essence of feminism and anti-Feminism, "Women are not born, but the day after tomorrow is brought up." (Simone de Beauvoir, p.205) advocating that there is no permanent fixed femininity or the fate of women. Although such a woman "same to all human beings who is free and independent existence, but found herself forced in this world as a man, had to take the other identity" (Simone de Beauvoir, p.308), but stressed by existential honest with yourself and the situation, bravely choices, efforts to change the situation, women still can redefine their existence, and full participation in the past. *The Devil Wears Prada* told us that being a queen of her owns need not care for the eyes of others. Depending on yourself, women can live well and happily. This will be

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the future direction of the United States, and the rise of women is no longer a novel.  
You see, Hilary Clinton is going to move to the presidency again!

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Rockefeller. *38 Letters Rockefeller Wrote to His Son*. 2012

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