

Introduction:

Hello everyone, today we will talk about our analysis on the film adaptation of Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*.

Content:

Our presentation is divided into two main parts:

The first part is: Exploring Catherine's character portrayal and her conflict between fantasy and reality.

While the second part is: Analysis of the divergent themes in movie and novel.

Catherine Morland in the Film Adaptation : Conflict Between Fantasy and Reality

First, let's discuss Catherine Morland in the Film Adaptation:

Analysis of the Divergent Themes in Movie and Novel

Next, I'll discuss the divergent themes:

What Does the Movie Convey?

The theme is highlighted in a meaningful conversation between Catherine's parents at the beginning of the film:

- Her mother says: "I wonder if it can be good for her, my dear, to read quite so many novels?"
- Her father answers: "What could be a more innocent or harmless pastime for a young girl than reading?"

So, the film basically discusses **the Impact of Emotional Overindulgence in Novels**.

As my partner previously discussed, the film brilliantly uses visual and auditory elements to enhance the Gothic atmosphere present in the novel. This effectively highlights how deeply Catherine is obsessed with the Gothic novels she reads.

Furthermore, the film employs a more direct and explicit approach to showcase Catherine's transition and growth from imagination to reality.

Let's watch a video clip.

【play】 and 【pause】

This is a key scene in the novel, where Henry Tilney gently but firmly corrects Catherine's wild suspicions, is altered in the film. In the book, Henry's speech appeals to Catherine's understanding and sense of the probable. However, in the movie, his rebuke is more pointed, emphasizing the dangers of letting her imagination run wild and explicitly stating that she reads too many novels.

Here's another one.

【play】 and 【pause】

Another symbolic scene added in the film shows Catherine throwing her "Udolpho" into the fire. This dramatic gesture, not present in the book, suggests a more emphatic rejection of her previous fantasies and marks a significant moment in her character development.

What Does the Novel Convey?

Next, let's discuss what the novel conveys.

Critique of Marriage Based on Wealth and Status

The novel critiques the pursuit of marriage based on wealth and social status, illustrating the moral and emotional pitfalls of such motivations through the characters of General Tilney. His behavior exemplifies the attitudes of the social elite, who seek to maintain their privileged status by ensuring their children marry into wealth.

[1]

These pictures of General Tilney's remarks show that General Tilney frequently asks Catherine whether her relative, Mr. Allen's possessions are as impressive as his own. These words reveal his preoccupation with material wealth and his desire to secure an advantageous marriage for his family.

[2]

Misled by John Thorpe into believing Catherine is an heiress, General Tilney welcomes her into his home, seeing her as a suitable match for his son. However, when he discovers the truth about Catherine's modest financial situation, his hospitality turns to hostility, and he expels her from his house, highlighting his obsession with wealth and status.

[3]

His distorted values are further reflected in his changing attitude towards his daughter, Eleanor. Once servile to her father, Eleanor is suddenly called "Your Ladyship" after marrying a wealthy and influential man. This sharp contrast critiques societal norms that prioritize wealth and status over love and personal compatibility in marriage.

Satire of Men's Egotistical Preference for Intellectual Inferiority

[1]

Our male protagonist, Henry Tilney, is portrayed in the film as a rather positive figure, even a model boyfriend. However, is he truly flawless in the novel? Not quite.

[2]

In Chapter 14, the narrator makes a sardonic observation about the societal preference for beautiful but "stupid" women. The narrator's seemingly sympathetic defense of men slyly satirizes their egotistical preference for intellectually inferior women, even implying that Henry is "too reasonable and too well-informed to desire anything more in a woman than ignorance."

Henry himself reveals his biases against women, noting they may lack "observation, discernment, judgment, fire, genius, and wit." His ironic detachment and awareness of human flaws remind readers of Mr. Bennet from "Pride and Prejudice," who similarly exhibits superiority over his less discerning family members.

Through Henry's multifaceted characters, Austen critiques the egotistical and patronizing attitudes of men who prefer intellectually inferior women, challenging readers to recognize and question these societal norms.

Summary

In summary, the novel and film adaptation of *Northanger Abbey* differ in how they express their themes. The film employs a more direct and visually dramatic approach, effectively conveying the major themes through explicit visual and auditory elements. This method highlights Catherine's obsession with Gothic novels and her subsequent growth from imagination to reality.

On the other hand, the novel uses a detailed narrative and exquisite character depictions to provide a richer exploration of themes, particularly in its critique of social norms. Through multifaceted characters like General Tilney and Henry Tilney, Austen critiques the societal emphasis on wealth and status in marriage and the egotistical attitudes of men who prefer intellectually inferior women.

Through this analysis, we have gained valuable insights into the different methods of storytelling in literature and film. We have also deepened our understanding of Austen's nuanced depiction of the complexities of characters and her intention.