

China and One Asian Community: Cross-cultural Voice

Focusing on Adaptation of Classical Chinese Literary Works

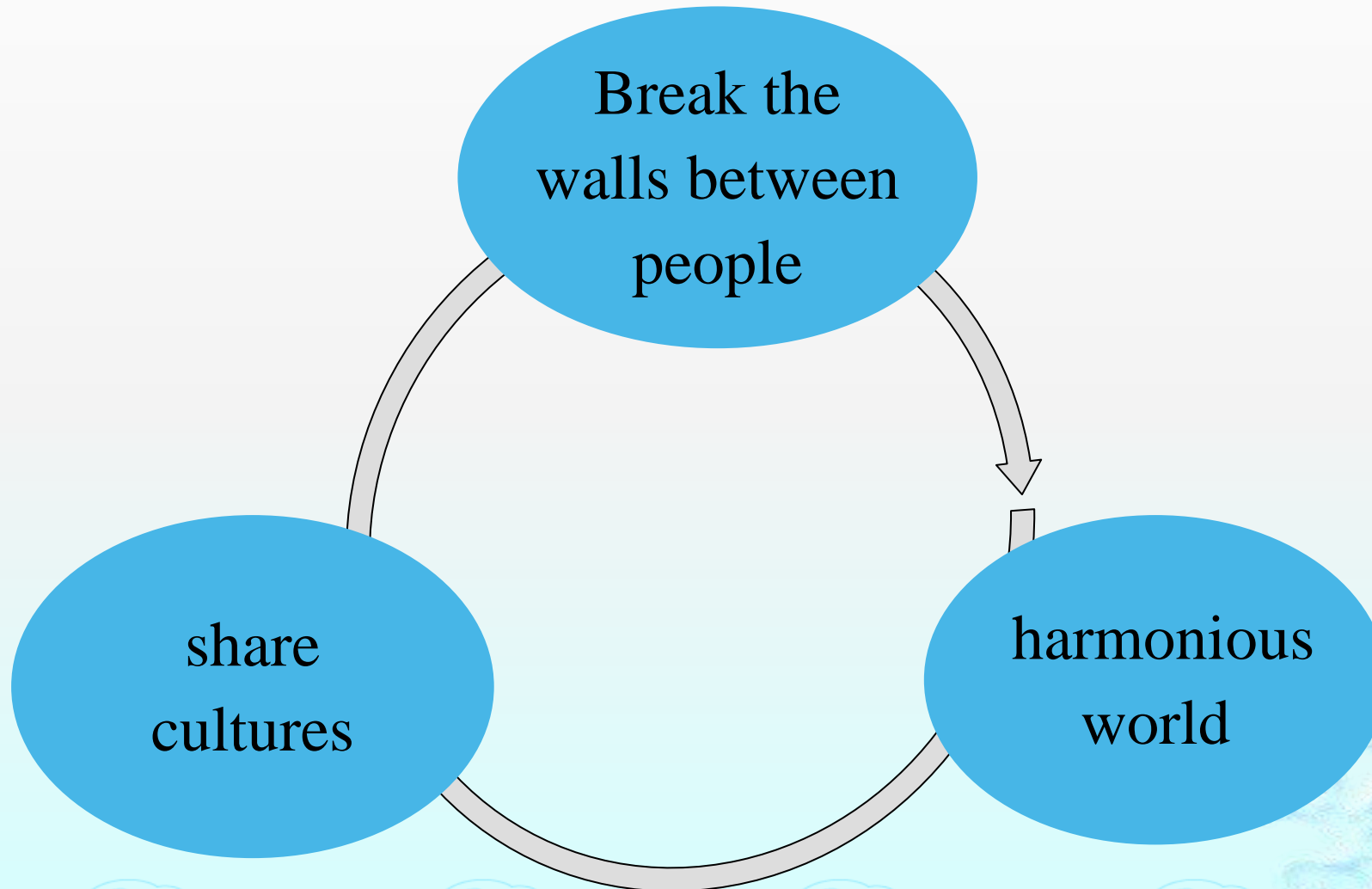
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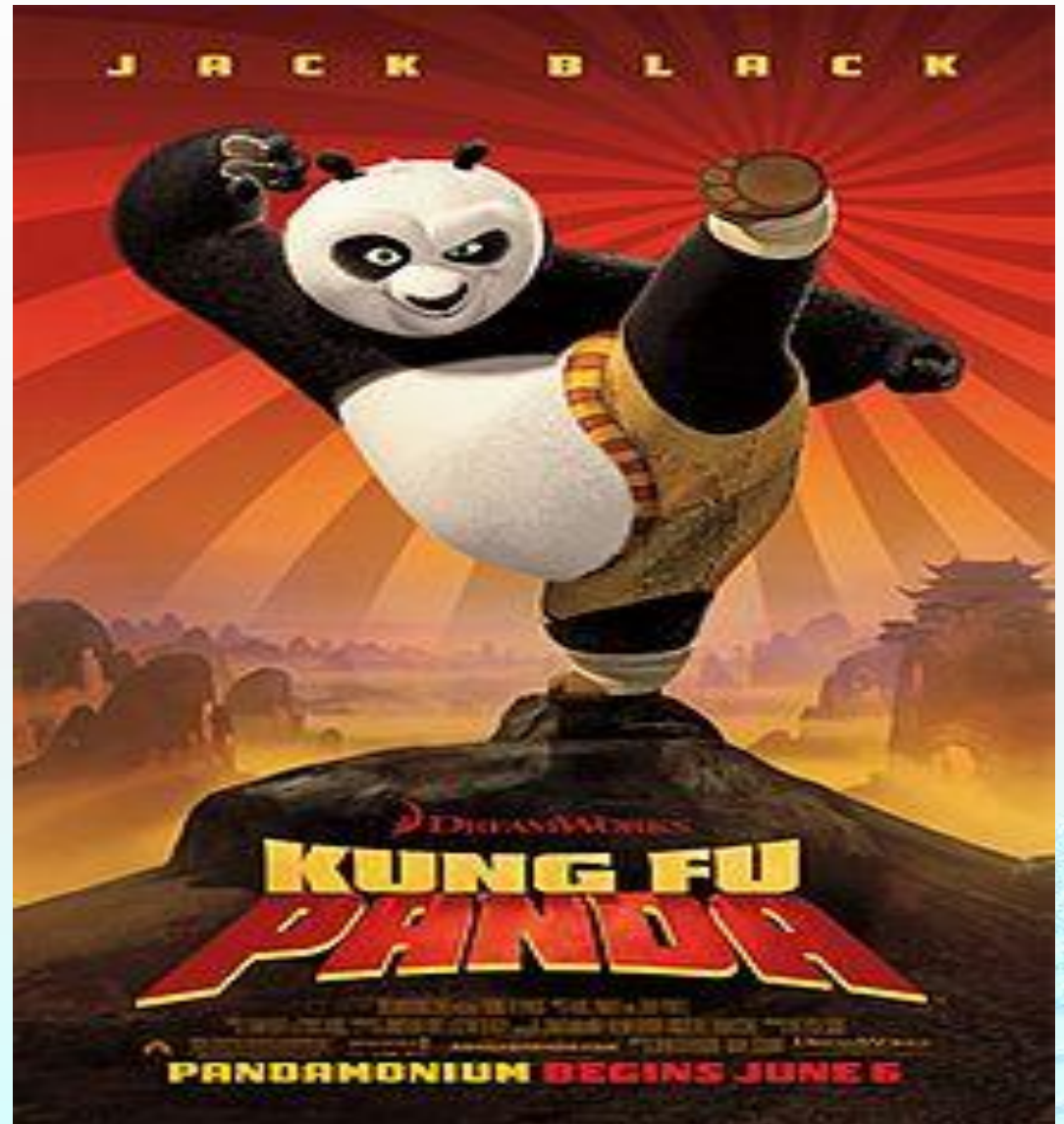
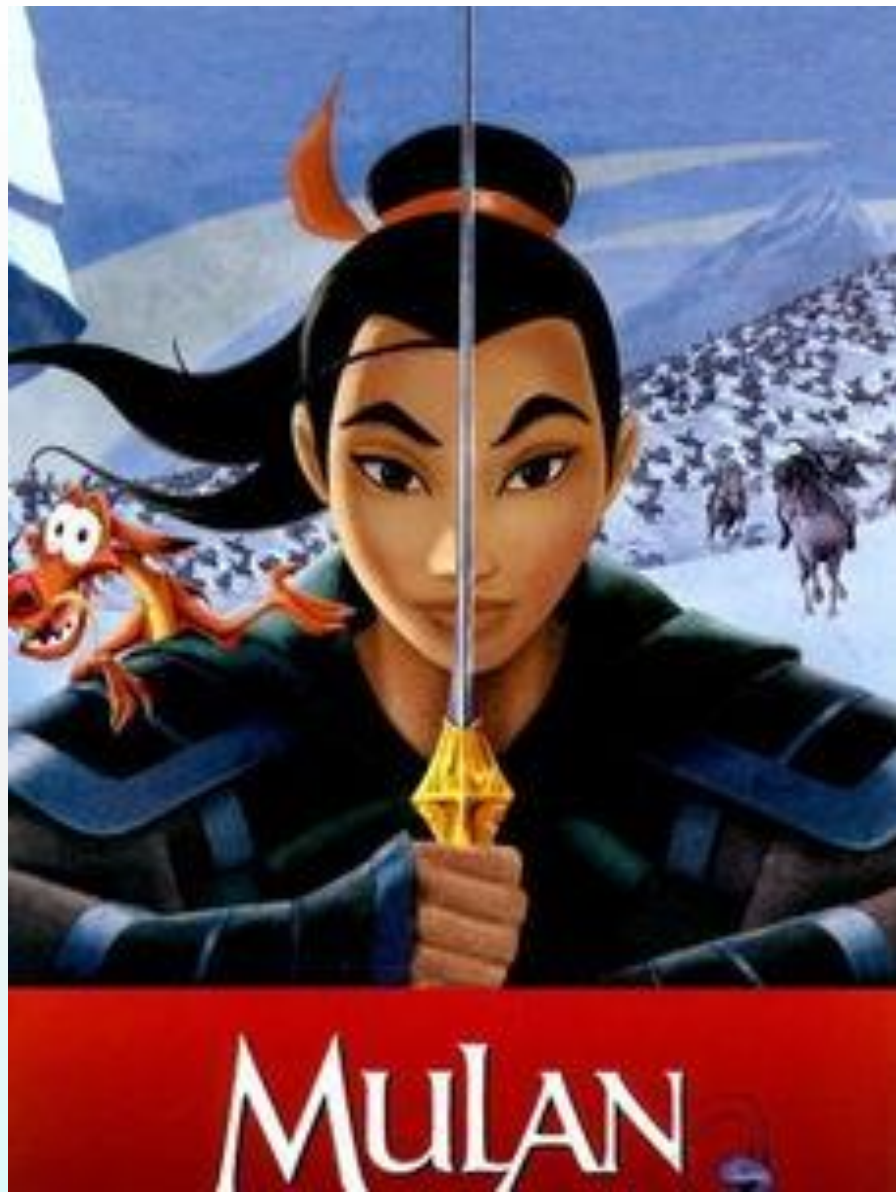


The Philosophy Idea of One Asian Community



- ◆ The classical Chinese literary works are modified in western cultural context.
- ◆ a good example to prove one Asian Community's philosophy idea







1

Ballad of Mulan (Chinese)
&
Disney Film Mulan (America)

The folk story of *Hua Mu-Lan* (Chinese: 花木蘭) is known in every household in China. Hua Mulan is a legendary woman warrior from Chinese history, originally described in the Ballad of Mulan (Chinese: 木蘭辭; pinyin: Mùlán cí).



Ballad of Mulan

- ◆ The poem starts with Mulan sitting worriedly at her loom, as one male from each family is called to serve in the army to defend China from invaders.
- ◆ Her father is old and weak and her younger brother is just a child, so she decides to take his place and bids farewell to her parents, who support her.

Ballad of Mulan

She is already skilled in fighting, having been taught martial arts, sword fighting, and archery by the time she enlists in the army.

After twelve years of fighting, the army returns and the warriors are rewarded. Mulan turns down an official post, and asks only for a swift horse to carry her home.





Ballad of Mulan

She is greeted with joy by her family.

Mulan dons her old clothes and meets her comrades, who are shocked that in their years traveling together, they did not realize that she was a woman.

However, this does not change their good friendship.

One verse in the ballad is well-known, that is“阿爷无大儿，木兰无长兄，愿为市鞍马，从此替爷征，”which means "Father has no grown-up son, Mu-Lan has no elder brother. I want to buy a saddle and horse, and serve in the army in Father's palace." (Frankel, 1976). Mu-Lan's filial piety and virtue are vividly presented.





Liu
Yi
fei



Who is that girl I see
staring straight
back at me ?

MULAN

1998-2018

@刘亦菲

Disney Mulan

- ◆ Disney chose *Ballad of Mulan* and made into an animated film in 1998.
- ◆ Disney story is based on the ancient Chinese ballad, but Disney created a new image of the character *Mu-Lan*, devised to appeal to a wide audience around the world.





The
WALT DISNEY
Company



- ◆ The prototype of Mulan was given new meanings and has been endowed with more diverse colors by Walt Disney Company.
- ◆ The animated film of *Mulan* achieved a huge success and earned huge profits (\$300 million)worldwide in 1998.
- ◆ A flood of global praise at the time, with some American film critics acclaiming it as the best of Disney's films.

Disney Mulan

In Disney's *Mulan*, Mulan states that

Maybe I didn't go for my father. Maybe what I really wanted was to prove I could do things right. So when I looked in the mirror, I'd see someone worthwhile. (Mulan film script n/p)

DISCUSSION

- ◆ Those few words express clearly that Mulan replaces her father on the battlefield no longer for the sake of filial piety, but because she wants to prove herself a useful person.
- ◆ She pursues her own personal value and the honor of family and her country. As a result, the Chinese concept of filial piety and collective consciousness is greatly weakened.

Mulan (2003)

- ◆ In this film, Disney enhances Mulan's individual characteristics as a brave, independent female, thus addressing a Western audience in accordance with contemporary feminist values.
- ◆ By means of the adaptation in Disney's animated version, a story with strong traditional Chinese feudal consciousness can be accepted by audiences all over the world.

Comparision

1. collectivism

**2. female
obedience**

3. filial devotion

1. individualism

**2. women's
liberation**

**3. two-way
communication
between father and
daughter**

Thus, this process of cross-cultural adaptation serves to achieve a form of global cultural transmission that appeals to almost everyone.



Kungfu Panda



*Research Report on
Overseas Recognition of
Chinese Discourse*

----February, 2018









- ◆ *Kung Fu Panda* is an animated action comedy, produced by Dream Works Animation.
- ◆ The movie premiered in USA in 2008 and became one of Dream Works' hits.

◆ *Kung Fu Panda* presents a combination of traditional Chinese cultural factors, especially Chinese Dao philosophy, as exposed by the ancient Chinese philosopher Laozi (老子).





- ◆ The essence of "The Way," as Dao is translated, can be seen in the movie in the character of the Panda PO, and his aspirations to become a Kung Fu master.
- ◆ PO practices martial arts relentlessly, and experiences various failures, finally saving the lives' of his hometown relatives.



- ◆ As in Mulan, a single hero or heroine are responsible for saving a group of people, a community, nation, or even the entire planet.
- ◆ The individual 'I' is once more highlighted. The character of PO brings to mind many aspects of the culture of the United States: his dreaming nature and his pursuit of personal freedom and heroic values.

Disney's Mulan

- ◆ As in Mulan, the Chinese story is adapted to the new cultural setting, combining the strengths of Chinese culture, while adhering to North American life style.

Conclusion

Thus, we can say that Mulan and Kung Fu Panda do not simply belong to the culture of one country. They have become examples of cross-cultural phenomena, exemplifying a mixture of sometimes opposing ideas, combining old traditions and new interpretations from both East and West.



harmonious
world

**Thank
You**



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