HiLL PUBLISHING

Journal of Humanities, Arts and Social Science, 2025, 9(3), 455-460
https://www.hillpublisher.com/Journals/jhass/
ISSN Online: 2576-0548
ISSN Print: 2576-0556

Intercultural Dialogue and Exploration of Magical Realism from Multiple Perspectives

Meirong Qi

School of Humanities and Foreign Languages, Xi'an University of Science and Technology, Xi'an 710054, Shaanxi, China.

How to cite this paper: Meirong Qi. (2025) Intercultural Dialogue and Exploration of Magical Realism from Multiple Perspectives. *Journal of Humanities, Arts and Social Science*, 9(3), 455-460.
DOI: 10.26855/jhass.2025.03.007

Received: January 31, 2025
Accepted: February 28, 2025
Published: March 27, 2025

***Corresponding author:** Meirong Qi, School of Humanities and Foreign Languages, Xi'an University of Science and Technology, Xi'an 710054, Shaanxi, China.

Abstract

This paper explores magical realism in the context of globalization through intercultural dialogue and multiple perspectives, analyzing its unique artistic style and profound social connotations as an important literary genre in 20th-century Latin American literature. It first introduces the characteristics of magical realism, including the fusion of reality and fantasy, the distortion and reconstruction of time and space, as well as strong local color and national characteristics, with *One Hundred Years of Solitude* as a detailed example. The paper discusses multiple research perspectives, encompassing literary theories and reader responses, while analyzing Gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* from a structuralist viewpoint. It summarizes the significance of intercultural dialogue and multiple perspectives in fostering literary studies' internationalization and cultural diversity. Looking ahead, the paper anticipates future research directions in literary scholarship, emphasizing the continued deepening of research on intercultural dialogue and multiple perspectives to propel the prosperity and development of literary studies globally.

Keywords

Magical Realism; Intercultural Dialogue; Multiple Perspectives; *One Hundred Years of Solitude*; Globalization

1. Introduction

In today's increasingly globalized world, intercultural dialogue has become an important force driving world cultural exchanges and development. Literature, as an important carrier of culture, experiences a process of intercultural transmission and acceptance that involves not only the conversion of language and text but also deep-level cultural exchanges and collisions. Magical realism, as a significant genre in 20th-century Latin American literature, has attracted widespread attention and research globally due to its unique artistic style and profound social connotations. This paper selects magical realism as the research object, aiming to explore new paths and methods in literary studies through in-depth analysis of its intercultural dialogue and multiple perspectives.

2. Characteristics and Dissemination of Magical Realism

2.1 Characteristics of Magical Realism

Magical realism is an artistic technique that cleverly blends elements such as reality and fantasy, history and mythology, folklore, and modern experience. It breaks through the objective representation principle of traditional realism, deeply revealing the underlying contradictions and issues in social reality through the depiction of supernatural phenomena, the distortion and reconstruction of time and space, and other techniques. At the same time, magical realism

often contains rich local color and national characteristics, reflecting social reality and the fate of people in specific historical periods and cultural backgrounds. It skillfully intertwines elements such as reality and fantasy, history and mythology, folklore, and modern experience, creating a literary world that is both real and surreal. Taking Gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* as an example, the "yellow butterflies" disaster in the town of Macondo assigns a supernatural color to the natural phenomenon of yellow butterflies, symbolizing irresistible fate and the repetition of history. This technique breaks through the objective representation principle of traditional realism, allowing readers to experience the beauty of strangeness while deeply perceiving the richness and complexity of Latin American social history (Cai Weina, 2018).

Magical realism also excels in presenting reality through the distortion and reconstruction of time and space. In *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, the fate of family members seems to be guided by a mysterious force, and time is no longer linear here but exhibits cyclical characteristics, as seen in the recurring names and similar fate trajectories among the Buendía family members. This temporal and spatial disarray not only adds a magical element to the story but also profoundly reveals the repetitiveness and tragedy of certain phenomena in human history.

2.2 Dissemination and Acceptance of Magical Realism

Since Gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* won the Nobel Prize in Literature, magical realism has swept the globe like a powerful literary storm, rapidly disseminating and winning widespread acclaim. This work not only established a unique position for Latin American literature in the world literary arena, making magical realism a hallmark genre of the region, but also transcended geographical and cultural boundaries, profoundly influencing the development trajectory of world literature. Readers and scholars from different countries and regions have interpreted magical realism works from various angles, exploring their cultural implications and artistic value.

In North America, scholars such as Fredric Jameson deeply analyzed *One Hundred Years of Solitude* from a postmodernist perspective, discussing how it challenges traditional narrative structures and presents the cyclical and repetitive nature of history. This interpretation sparked a strong interest in Latin American history and culture among North American readers. In Europe, the French literary world warmly embraced magical realism, with critics such as Maurice Blanchot regarding it as an important model of literary innovation, promoting deep exchanges and fusion between European and Latin American literature. Asia also has its loyal fans of magical realism. In China, writers such as Mo Yan and Yan Lianke have been deeply influenced by it, incorporating magical elements into their works while retaining the essence of local culture and exhibiting a dialogue with world literature (Yu Chunfang, 2017).

This intercultural dissemination and acceptance process not only promoted the international dissemination of literary works, enabling readers from more countries and regions to access and appreciate the unique charm of magical realism, but also facilitated the formation of intercultural dialogue and multiple perspectives. Readers and scholars from different cultural backgrounds jointly explored the cultural implications and artistic value behind magical realism works, promoting global literary and cultural exchanges and understanding, facilitating the international dissemination of literary works, and promoting the formation of intercultural dialogue and multiple perspectives. This contributed to building a more diverse and inclusive world literary landscape.

3. Intercultural Dialogue: Magical Realism as a Cultural Bridge

3.1 Presentation and Understanding of Cultural Differences

Magical realism works present the unique cultural landscape and historical changes of Latin America through unique narrative techniques and rich cultural connotations. These works blend Indian culture, European colonial culture, African-American culture, and other cultural elements, forming a unique cultural mixture. In *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Gabriel García Márquez expertly showcases the rich cultural landscape and historical changes of Latin America through his exceptional narrative skills. Taking the story of the Buendía family as an example, the frequent appearance of Indian mythology elements, such as the ancient spells Ursula invokes during difficult childbirth and the "earth-eating" quirk triggered by the rivalry between Amaranta and Rebeca for love, deeply reflects the mystery and primitive power of Indian culture. These elements not only enrich the narrative hierarchy of the novel but also immerse readers in that ancient land, enabling them to personally feel the unique charm of its culture (Wu Gang, 2017).

The imprint of European colonial culture is also evident in the novel. From the Buendía family's fervent pursuit of technology to their unconscious maintenance of the social hierarchy and their devotion and confusion towards religious beliefs, all reveal the profound impact of European culture on Latin American society. In particular, the family tragedy triggered by José Arcadio Buendía's fascination with alchemy is a profound reflection on the scientific superstitions and shattered dreams brought by European colonists.

African-American culture also occupies an indispensable position in the novel. Through the portrayal of characters such as Santa Sofía de la Piedad, readers gain insight into the living conditions and cultural contributions of descendants of black slaves in Latin American society. The music, dance, and resilient survival wisdom they brought have added a bright touch to the cultural diversity of the town of Macondo and promoted exchanges and fusion between different cultures. During the reading process, readers can not only feel the charm of exotic cultures but also more deeply understand the differences and commonalities between different cultures. This intercultural experience prompts readers to step out of their own cultural framework, adopt a more open and inclusive mindset to understand and respect different cultural forms, and promote mutual understanding and respect between cultures (Huo Fang, 2018).

3.2 Construction and Reflection of Cultural Identity

Magical realist works exhibit cultural differences across different regions. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, while showcasing these cultural differences, subtly guides readers to identify with and reflect on their own cultural identities. By reading the rise and fall of the Buendía family, readers cannot help but ponder: In the face of the globalization wave, how should one's own culture be positioned? How can one maintain uniqueness while harmoniously coexisting with other cultures? In the novel, the Buendía family's deep attachment to their hometown and their brave exploration of the unknown world resemble the choices faced by every cultural individual in the context of globalization. They are eager to retain their purity and uniqueness but cannot resist the temptation and impact of foreign cultures. This contradiction and struggle are inevitable in the process of cultural identity construction. Additionally, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* provokes readers to deeply reflect on cultural inheritance and innovation through the fate and sense of destiny of the family members. In the rapidly changing times, how can one adhere to the roots and soul of culture while continuously injecting new vitality and elements to make it shine more brightly? This is a question that every cultural entity needs to face and answer. Reading magical realist works like *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is not only a cultural journey across time and space but also a profound process of cultural identity construction and reflection. This process of cultural identity construction and reflection is an essential part of cross-cultural dialogue. It prompts us to reexamine our cultural identities and value pursuits in the context of globalization and contribute to realizing the beautiful vision of multicultural coexistence (Yang Jing, 2021).

4. Multiple Perspectives: The Interpretive Space of Magical Realism

4.1 The Fusion of Literary Theory and Critical Methods

Magical realist works, with their unique artistic style and profound social connotations, have attracted the attention of numerous literary theories and critical methods. Structuralism, post-structuralism, feminism, post-colonialism, and other literary theories and critical methods have intervened in magical realism research, forming diversified perspectives and interpretive spaces. These different perspectives and methods complement and collide with each other, providing rich theoretical resources for us to deeply understand magical realism. Magical realist works, with their unique artistic charm and profound social insights, have become fertile ground for the intersection of literary theories and critical methods.

4.1.1 Repetitive Patterns in Family Trees

In *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, García Márquez constructs an intricate family tree through the legendary stories of seven generations of the Buendía family. Structuralists would notice that this family tree is filled with repeated names and similar fate trajectories. For instance, multiple generations of the family bear the names Aureliano or Arcatio, and their life experiences seem to repeat the paths of their predecessors: some are obsessed with power struggles, while others spend their remaining lives in solitude. This repetition is not only reflected in individual destinies but also runs through the entire family history, forming a unique cycle of fate.

4.1.2 Exploration of Symbolic Meaning

Structuralists explore the symbolic meanings behind these repetitive elements. They believe that the repetitive patterns in the family tree symbolize the inescapable fate and recurring history of the Buendía family. This sense of fate is not only reflected in the personal destinies of family members but also profoundly mirrors the historical changes and cultural dilemmas of the entire Latin American society. For example, the founder of the family, José Arcadio Buendía, is obsessed with alchemy and ends his life in solitude, which can be seen as a symbol of the early explorations and failures of Latin American society. The repeated destinies of his descendants in the family inheritance suggest the cycles and unavoidable difficulties in the course of social and historical progress.

4.1.3 Revelation of Deep Structure

By focusing on the repetitive patterns and symbolic meanings of the family tree, structuralists reveal the deep structure of *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. This deep structure is not only reflected in the cyclical nature of the family's fate but also in the narrative structure and language style of the work. For instance, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* adopts a circular time structure, where each story almost begins from the end, returns to the corresponding beginning, and then cycles back to the end. This narrative approach enhances the cyclical nature of fate and the recurrence of history. Meanwhile, the work is filled with magical realist language and imagery, such as the disaster of yellow butterflies and the legend of mermaids, which further deepen the symbolic meaning and philosophical connotations of the work.

4.2 Diversity in Reader Response and Interpretation

Due to the openness and ambiguity of magical realist works, readers seem to step into a vast sea of imagination during the reading process, each navigating unique routes and producing rich and diverse responses and interpretations. These responses and interpretations are influenced not only by readers' personal backgrounds and cultural experiences but also constrained by external factors such as the historical background and social environment. García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, with its magical brushwork and profound themes, has sparked heated discussions and diverse interpretations among readers worldwide.

4.2.1 Differences in Reader Backgrounds and Cultural Experiences Manifest in Interpretation

For readers from Latin America or those with similar cultural backgrounds, the town of Macondo, the rise and fall of the Buendía family, and the magical plots in *One Hundred Years of Solitude* may more easily trigger their resonance with their hometown, family, and history. They may see reflections of colonial history, adherence to local culture, and profound analyses of human weaknesses in the work. Readers from different cultural backgrounds may focus more on the symbolic meanings of the supernatural elements in the work, such as interpreting the disaster of "yellow butterflies" as a symbol of irresistible fate or viewing the introduction of "ice" as the impact and change of foreign culture on local society.

4.2.2 The Historical Background and Social Environment Also Influence Reader Interpretation

In the decades following the publication of *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, with the acceleration of globalization and social and cultural changes worldwide, readers' interpretations of this work have also evolved. Today, when peace and development are the themes of the times, some readers may be more inclined to seek common spiritual pursuits and value identities from the work. During periods of social unrest or heightened cultural conflict, the revelations and criticisms of power, violence, and social injustice in the work may more easily resonate and provoke reflection among readers. Additionally, emotional resonance during the reading process is also a significant factor leading to the diversity of interpretations. Some readers are moved by the complex and profound emotional bonds among the Buendía family members, lamenting the helplessness and tragedy of the family's fate. Others have a special fondness for the fantastical descriptions in the work, enjoying the pleasure and shock brought by reading. These different emotional experiences and aesthetic preferences allow each reader to draw unique insights and revelations from *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.

In summary, the diversity in reader responses and interpretations in magical realism research is precisely because the openness and ambiguity of the works themselves provide readers with vast interpretive spaces. This diversity not only enriches the connotation and extension of magical realism but also promotes the diversified development of literary research, enabling us to understand and appreciate this unique literary genre from a more comprehensive and three-dimensional perspective (Chen Xi, 2020).

5. The Significance and Value of Cross-cultural Dialogue and Multiple Perspectives in Magical Realism Research

5.1 Promoting the Internationalization of Literary Research

The introduction of cross-cultural dialogue and multiple perspectives makes magical realism research no longer limited to a single cultural context and academic tradition. It prompts researchers to cross national and disciplinary boundaries and engage in extensive exchanges and cooperation. This international research perspective not only helps us more comprehensively understand the essence and value of magical realism but also promotes the internationalization of literary research as a whole.

5.2 Facilitating the Development of Cultural Diversity and Inclusivity

The deep integration of cross-cultural dialogue and multiple perspectives helps us more deeply understand the differences and commonalities between different cultures, thereby promoting the development of cultural diversity and inclusivity. In magical realism research, we can see how different cultural elements intertwine and influence each other, forming a unique cultural landscape. This process of cultural fusion not only enriches our cultural horizons but also provides us with more cultural choices and possibilities.

5.3 Providing Ideological Resources for Contemporary Society

The social realities and deep contradictions revealed by magical realist works still have profound enlightening significance for contemporary society. Through in-depth analysis with cross-cultural dialogue and multiple perspectives, we can more clearly recognize the various challenges and issues faced in the process of globalization and then ponder how to construct a more just, harmonious, and inclusive social order. This reflection not only helps us better understand the complexity of contemporary society but also provides us with valuable ideological resources (Xiao Xin, 2020).

6. Conclusion and Outlook

This paper explores the deep integration of cross-cultural dialogue and multiple perspectives in the magical realism genre, revealing new paths and methods in literary research. We find that the introduction of cross-cultural dialogue and multiple perspectives not only enriches the content and form of literary research but also promotes the internationalization of literary research and the development of cultural diversity and inclusivity. In the future, we should continue to deepen research on cross-cultural dialogue and multiple perspectives, explore the cross-cultural elements and multiple perspective characteristics in more literary genres and phenomena, and contribute more wisdom and strength to the prosperity and development of literary research. At the same time, we should also pay attention to the changes and development trends of contemporary society, closely integrate literary research with social reality, and contribute to building a better community with a shared future for mankind.

Funding

This paper is the research achievement of the project supported by the National Social Science Fund of China, namely "Research on the Representation of Information Structure in Chinese Learners' English Interlanguage" (Project Number: 23BYY144).

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