

Research on the Creation of Chinese-Style Digital Game Characters Based on “The Heaven’s Movement Is Vigororous, and the Earth’s Condition Is Receptive”

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Abstract:

This study focuses on exploring the creation of Chinese-style digital game characters based on the concept of “The heaven’s movement is vigororous, and the earth’s condition is receptive”. It analyzes the application of this cultural concept in aspects such as character image, personality, skills, and growth narrative. “The heaven’s movement is vigororous” endows characters with the qualities of being robust and enterprising, while “The earth’s condition is receptive” brings them elements of gentleness and tolerance. The integration of these two aspects enriches the layers of characters, inherits Chinese culture, provides a cultural foundation and innovative ideas for the creation of Chinese-style digital game characters, and enhances their cultural recognition and competitiveness in the global market.

Keywords:

The Heaven’s Movement is Vigororous, The Earth’s Condition is Receptive, Chinese Style, Digital Game Characters

1. Introduction

1.1. The Vigorous Development Trend of Chinese-Style Digital Games

With the vigorous development of the game industry, the importance of game character design has become increasingly prominent. Game characters are not only the carriers of game content but also important elements for cultural communication and worldview construction [1].

In terms of game types, various themes and genres have continued to emerge, covering role-playing, action, strategy, puzzle-solving, and other types, meeting the preferences and needs of different players. For example, role-playing games such as *Moonlight Blade* and *Dragon Oath* have attracted a large number of players with their plots and character settings full of Chinese cultural charm; the action game *Black*

Myth: Wukong, which is based on Chinese mythological stories, shows a unique oriental fantasy style and has attracted much attention both at home and abroad.

1.2. The In-depth Empowerment of Traditional Culture on Game Character Creation

Traditional Chinese culture has a long history and is extensive and profound. It covers many aspects such as philosophical thoughts, artistic forms, and folk culture. It has a positive and far-reaching impact on enriching the connotation and image of game characters and enhancing their cultural value, and also endows great power to game character creation.

From the perspective of philosophical thoughts, concepts such as “As heaven maintains vigor through movement, a gentleman should constantly strive for self-improvement; as the earth’s condition is receptive devotion, a gentleman should hold the outer world with a broad mind” (derived from “The heaven’s movement is vigorous, and the earth’s condition is receptive”) convey the ideas of robustness and gentleness, enterprising and tolerance, which help to break through the previous single game character design thinking. For instance, paper-cutting elements can be integrated into character modeling design, or elements such as rare exotic animals and various immortals and ghosts in *The Classic of Mountains and Seas* can be used as sources of inspiration for character design, adding a sense of mystery and cultural connotation to the characters.

It can be seen that traditional culture has great exploitable potential in game character creation, enabling game characters to carry more cultural value and better spread Chinese culture.

1.3. Exposition of Research Purposes and Values

This study aims to deeply explore how to better integrate the traditional cultural concept of “The heaven’s movement is vigorous, and the earth’s condition is receptive”, which contains profound philosophical connotations, into the creation of Chinese-style digital game characters. This kind of “adherence” and “improvement” is exactly the “constant striving for self-improvement” [2]. By analyzing its connotation and combining it with various elements of character creation, this study strives to improve the quality of game characters, enabling the characters to not only have a unique Chinese style in their appearance but also show the characteristics in line with traditional cultural values in their inner spiritual level, thereby enhancing the overall cultural heritage of the game.

2. In-depth Analysis of the Philosophical Connotation of “The Heaven’s Movement Is Vigorous, and the Earth’s Condition Is Receptive”

2.1. Analysis of the Connotation of “The Heaven’s Movement Is Vigorous, and the Earth’s Condition Is Receptive”

The saying “As heaven maintains vigor through movement, a gentleman should constantly strive for self-improvement; as the earth’s condition is receptive devotion, a gentleman should hold the outer world with a broad mind” comes from *The Book of Changes* and contains profound and rich philosophical thoughts. “The heaven’s movement is vigorous” describes the eternal and robust operation of celestial bodies,

symbolizing a vigorous, upward, and never-ending driving force and vitality in the universe. This characteristic inspires people to uphold a spirit of perseverance and striving for progress in life. On the other hand, “The earth’s condition is receptive” shows the earth’s virtue of being broad, tolerant, and carrying all things, implying that people should have a broad and open-minded, calm and prudent mind, be able to accept the diversity and complexity of the world, and treat others and all things with kindness and benevolence, just like the earth silently carrying everything without complaint. These two aspects complement each other and together form a life philosophy paradigm that is both vigorous and promising, as well as broad and tolerant.

2.2. The Thought of Unity of Man and Nature and Moral Practice

“The heaven’s movement is vigorous, and the earth’s condition is receptive” deeply reflects the thought of unity of man and nature in traditional Chinese philosophy. From the perspective of moral practice, “the heaven’s movement is vigorous” encourages people to follow the laws of heaven in social life, work hard, and constantly improve their self-cultivation and abilities, so as to realize the unity of personal value and social value, and actively engage in the construction and development of the country and family causes, showing a strong sense of social responsibility and commitment. This is a specific practice of the vigorous spirit of heaven in human affairs. The broad virtue contained in “The earth’s condition is receptive” guides people to respect and care for others in interpersonal communication, create a harmonious and stable social relationship, and treat all things in the world with a tolerant and kind attitude, so as to achieve harmony in interpersonal relationships and balance between man and nature. Thus, the harmonious state of unity of man and nature is achieved at the level of moral practice, providing a lofty ideal paradigm and practical path for the moral creation of digital game characters.

2.3. Philosophical Balance and Implications for Character Creation

This ancient philosophical proposition also contains a profound thought of balance. The correspondence between “The heaven’s movement is vigorous” and “The earth’s condition is receptive” presents a balanced state of combining hardness and softness, and integrating movement and stillness. This balance has important implications for the creation of digital game characters.

On the one hand, the character creation of a role should not be limited to a single trait, such as overemphasizing bravery and strength while ignoring inner gentleness and broad-mindedness, or vice versa. A plump and three-dimensional game character should have both the spirit of enterprise and a tolerant mind. When facing battles and challenges, they can be firm and decisive, and when dealing with companions, handling emotional relationships, and making choices between right and wrong, they can show kindness, tolerance, and compassion. In this way, the character’s personality can be more real, three-dimensional, and charming. Only in this way can the character form a good interactive relationship with other characters, thereby enhancing the overall cultural connotation and artistic value of the game.

3. Dilemmas in the Integration of “The Heaven’s Movement Is Vigororous, and the Earth’s Condition Is Receptive” with Chinese-Style Digital Game Characters

3.1. Challenges in Integrating Traditional Chinese Cultural Elements with Modern Aesthetics

At present, Chinese-style digital games are in a stage of vigorous development. They have not only become an important choice for people’s leisure and entertainment but also a powerful carrier for spreading Chinese culture. However, there are many challenges in integrating the profound traditional cultural elements contained in “The Heaven’s Movement Is Vigororous, and the Earth’s Condition Is Receptive” with modern aesthetics.

Traditional culture has its specific historical background and forms of expression. For example, the spiritual connotation of being robust, self-reliant, tolerant, and carrying all things embodied in “The heaven’s movement is vigorous, and the earth’s condition is receptive” – Black Myth: Wukong, for instance, recreates and highly restores many classic scenes from Journey to the West, and on this basis, the game integrates more detailed descriptions and aesthetic designs based on modern styles [2,3]. A large number of Chinese-style elements are integrated into the character design, especially the detailed artistic treatment of the protagonist “Tianming Ren” (the Chosen One) [4].

When creating the two heroes Yun Ying and Zhao Huaizhen in Honor of Kings, the production team integrated traditional elements such as Emei spear technique and Tai Chi into the skills and images of the game characters [5]. Another example is the hero Yao in Honor of Kings, who harbors the dream of becoming the strongest swordsman and grows through continuous practice and challenges. His skill mechanism encourages players to take the initiative to attack, show their skills, and deal high damage by flexibly releasing skill combinations. Even if he fails in the battle, he will not be discouraged, but summarize the experience and continue to challenge stronger opponents. This undoubtedly demonstrates the self-improving spirit of “The heaven’s movement is vigorous”. At the same time, Yao's lines and background story also reveal his recognition and encouragement of the people around him, and his mind of tolerating others and making progress together, which also reflects the connotation of “The Earth’s Condition Is Receptive”.

3.2. Homogenization of Images and Lack of Innovation

In the current creation of Chinese-style digital game characters, the phenomenon of image homogenization is relatively prominent, and the lack of innovation has become an important factor restricting their high-quality development and in-depth integration with traditional cultural elements such as “The heaven's movement is vigorous, and the earth’s condition is receptive”.

In the creation of Chinese-style digital game characters, the phenomenon of image homogenization based on the connotation of “The heaven’s movement is vigorous, and the earth’s condition is receptive” is relatively significant. In terms of the robust and self-reliant spirit embodied in “The heaven’s movement is vigorous”, many game characters often fall into a fixed pattern in their appearance design. They usually wear tight-fitting clothes, have a straight posture, a firm facial expression, and hold

common cold weapons. The overall style of the model lacks unique personality, as if it is copied from the same template.

When it comes to showing the tolerant and broad image of “The earth’s condition is receptive”, there are also problems of being stereotyped and even plagiarized. Many characters are set to have a gentle personality and be indifferent to worldly affairs, and always respond to various situations with the same generous and tolerant attitude, lacking more delicate and diverse personality levels. This makes it easy for players to have aesthetic fatigue when experiencing different games, and it is difficult for them to deeply understand the unique spiritual characteristics of “The earth’s condition is receptive” that each character should show due to their unique experiences. It is also not conducive to the in-depth and diversified spread of the excellent traditional cultural connotation of “The heaven’s movement is vigorous, and the earth’s condition is receptive” through game characters.

3.3. Coordination Issues Between Character Creation and Plot Background

In Chinese-style digital games, the coordination between character creation and plot background is crucial. However, when integrating traditional cultural elements such as “The heaven’s movement is vigorous, and the earth’s condition is receptive”, there are often problems of inconsistency between the two.

For a successful game character, its personality, behavior, growth trajectory, etc., should be closely connected and correspond to the plot background set by the game. The spiritual connotation contained in “The heaven’s movement is vigorous, and the earth’s condition is receptive” can only be fully displayed relying on an appropriate plot story and background setting. For example, some games set the character to have the self-improving trait advocated by “The heaven’s movement is vigorous”, but the entire plot background is a peaceful world without challenges, leading to a disconnect between the character’s behavior and the logic of the story development. Or, in the creation of characters that embody the spirit of tolerance and carrying all things of “The earth’s condition is receptive”, the plot rarely arranges plots that require them to use this kind of mind to resolve conflicts, accept different views, and help others grow. As a result, the characteristics that the character should have can only stay in the surface setting and cannot be demonstrated through specific plots. Furthermore, when players experience the game, they feel that the character image is not three-dimensional and real, and it is difficult to deeply understand the spiritual connotation of “The heaven’s movement is vigorous, and the earth’s condition is receptive” carried by the character.

4. Optimization Strategies for Creating Chinese-Style Game Characters Under the Concept of “The Heaven’s Movement Is Vigorous, and the Earth’s Condition Is Receptive”

4.1. Innovating Character Design Concepts

When creating Chinese-style digital game characters based on the concept of “The heaven’s movement is vigorous, and the earth’s condition is receptive”, it is crucial to integrate diverse cultural elements for innovation. On the one hand, we can deeply explore and apply the characteristics of different regional cultures in China. In January 2022, the plot PV “The Divine Damsel’s Splendid Vision” was released. It takes ancient Chinese opera culture as the background, combines songs produced in

modern art forms, and launches the character Yun Jin and other subsequent activities. Once launched, it received unanimous praise at home and abroad, and the singing character Yun Jin has even become an ambassador for the spread of Chinese culture [6]. For example, Chinese opera can be cleverly integrated into character settings. Players have formed a good willingness to accept the traditional cultural elements such as opera, Chinese folk music, singing, and stage movements embodied in Yun Jin, forming a unique and culturally rich appearance image [7].

4.2. Optimizing the Integration of Plot and Characters

In the creation of Chinese-style digital games, the plot should be carefully constructed according to the traits of “The Heaven’s Movement Is Vigororous, and the Earth’s Condition Is Receptive” carried by the characters, so that the two can be deeply integrated and complement each other. For the protagonist characters that show the spirit of “The Heaven’s Movement Is Vigororous”, the plot can revolve around their continuous overcoming of difficulties and challenges against powerful opponents. The character and behavior settings need to be based on the concept to endow the characters with diverse and appropriate traits, which should be reflected in the progress of the plot. For online game players, game characters that are flashy but lack connotation, or have confused culture and are not carefully considered, will reduce their favorability towards game developers, lead to a decline in their stickiness and loyalty to the game, and fail to meet their spiritual and cultural needs through the game. Thus, a three-dimensional, full, and culturally profound game character image can be created in an all-round way [8]. For the auxiliary characters that embody the quality of “The Earth’s Condition Is Receptive”, the plot design can focus on the important role they play in team cooperation and interpersonal harmony. Characters adhering to the concept of tolerance and broad-mindedness of “The Earth’s Condition Is Receptive” allow players to deeply experience the cultural traits contained in the characters through the development of the plot.

4.3. Prospects for the Future Creation of Chinese-Style Digital Game Characters

In the future, when creating Chinese-style digital game characters based on “The heaven’s movement is vigorous, and the earth’s condition is receptive”, it is necessary to further deepen the exploration of this cultural connotation. We should not only reflect its spirit in the superficial image and behavior design but also draw inspiration from the root of traditional Chinese culture.

With the continuous advancement of technology, it is expected to realize the personalized experience of Chinese-style digital game character creation with the help of technologies such as big data and artificial intelligence in the future. By collecting players’ behavior data, aesthetic preferences, and other information in the game, artificial intelligence algorithms can be used to customize characters for players that meet their preferences and conform to the concept of “The heaven’s movement is vigorous, and the earth’s condition is receptive”. In terms of optimization strategies, various ways to innovate character design concepts are proposed, such as integrating diverse cultural elements, integrating elements from different regions, historical periods, and modern popular culture for innovation, and using modern technologies such as virtual reality (VR), artificial intelligence (AI), and augmented reality (AR) to realize the innovative expression of the concept. At the same time, it emphasizes the importance of optimizing the integration of the plot and characters. The plot should be constructed according to the character traits, and the development of the plot should

highlight the growth of the characters, so that the two can complement and enhance each other.

5. Conclusions

From the perspective of the long-term development of Chinese-style digital game character creation, with the continuous progress of science and technology and the increasing requirements of players for cultural connotation and game experience, deeply exploring the excellent traditional Chinese culture, skillfully integrating diverse cultural elements, and closely combining cutting-edge technologies to create more personalized characters with profound cultural heritage and strong artistic appeal will be an important direction for future development. At the same time, we should strengthen cross-field cooperation, realize resource sharing and complementary advantages, and constantly optimize the integration of the plot and characters, so that the characters can more vividly and three-dimensionally show the spiritual connotation contained in ‘The heaven’s movement is vigorous, and the earth’s condition is receptive’ in the game world. Furthermore, this will promote Chinese-style digital games to shine more brilliantly in the global game market and win the love and recognition of more players at home and abroad.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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