ABSTRACT

The objective of this dissertation is to provide an in depth study of the life and works of Tie Kang, a Singapore-Malayan writer in the late thirties and early forties.

Tie Kang (铁抗, 1913-1942) was one of the most prominent writers in the Singapore-Malayan modern Chinese literary scene during the Pre-War period (1937-1942). As he was born in China, his early works mainly reflected the resistance war against Japanese aggression in China. His later works, however, began to focus on the local scene, with an emphasis on local consciousness and matters pertaining to Malayan society.

This dissertation attempts to study comprehensively Tie Kang's collection of literary works, namely his literary criticism and theories, his novels, prose, plays and poetry. The themes and artistry of these works will also be discussed.

Materials used in the writing of this thesis were collected from microfilms of old newspapers, published texts of Tie Kang's works as well as other writers' evaluation of him.

This dissertation is divided into six chapters. The introductory chapter explains the reasons for choosing his works for analysis and the methods employed in the writing of this paper. Chapter Two traces his life from his days in China until his death during the Japanese Occupation. The following three chapters analyse his literary works in detail. The final chapter sums up the entire exercise with an overall assessment of his works and his contribution to the Singapore-Malayan literary scene.