ABSTRACT

He Qifang (何其芳, 1912 A.D. - 1977 A.D.) was a famous poet, prose writer as well as literary theorist. During the invasion of the Japanese in 1942, he became a communist. From then on, he stopped writing poems and prose as he felt they only expressed his own agonies. As a communist writer, he began to concentrate on writing literary criticism which he used to serve the people. Although his literary criticism was as significant as his poems and prose, it had not received much critical attention. This study attempts to analyse the substance of He's literary theories written during 1942 A.D. - 1977 A.D. and to establish his status in this literary genre.

After a brief introductory chapter, the study continues with a short biography of He Qifang, which helps us to understand the changes in his thinking after he became a communist. The subsequent chapters emphasize his literary theories. Analyses of his main literary thoughts such as the sources of literature, the social nature of literature, the characteristics of literature, the different methods of literary creation and his discussions on different forms of literature constitute the main body of this academic exercise.

As a communist literary theorist, He Qifang contributed much to literary thought in communist China. His works form a critical part of the Chinese literary tradition today.