ABSTRACT

Ding Ling is one of the outstanding authors of contemporary Chinese literature. She began her career as a professional writer when her first novel "Meng Ke" (梦见河) was published in 1927. Since then she had produced novels which mainly centred on the fate and sufferings of women during various periods. Through these works, the social problems of China were clearly depicted, thus making her writing a real social commentary.

One of Ding Ling's notable novels, "Mother", was written in 1932. It was the biography of Ding Ling's mother, Man Zhen (曼贞). Through the personal experience of Man Zhen, the author drew a sharp picture of the status and life of Chinese women before the Revolution of 1911 (辛亥革命). During that period women were oppressed by the feudal system. When the revolution came, they began to struggle for their rights and status in society.

This academic exercise attempts to make a thorough study of "Mother". Structurally, the exercise is divided into six chapters. The introductory chapter consists of a brief description of Ding Ling's prominent status in China's literary world and the objectives of studying this novel.

Chapter Two is an account of Ding Ling's life and literary activities.

Chapter Three is a discussion of the intentions of the author in writing this novel. It also describes the social context in which "Mother" was written.
Chapter Four deals with the main theme of "Mother" through an in-depth analysis of the novel.

Chapter Five concerns the special aesthetic features in "Mother". It is also an assessment of the literary merits and demerits of this novel.

Chapter Six concludes with an overall evaluation of "Mother" and the contribution Ding Ling has made to China's literary world.

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I am solely responsible for whatever mistakes and omissions made in this study.