ABSTRACT

Li Ying (李瑛) is one of the distinguished poets of modern China. He graduated from Bei Jing University in 1949 and has started writing poems in his teens. Today, at the age of 62, Li Ying still takes poetry-writing very seriously. Though working at the Cultural Department of People's Liberation Army and only an amateur in poetry-writing, Li Ying is, however, a consistent and productive poet. He has published more than 20 collections of poems over the 40-odd years, and has developed his own distinctive style.

Born in 1926, Li Ying is also a poet that grows with modern China. He has gone through the many stages of modern Chinese history, such as Sino-Japanese War (1937 - 1945), the Civil War (1945 - 1949), and the Cultural Revolution (1966 - 1976). He has shared its happiness, and at times has suffered for it. Thus, his poems are closely related to the social conditions and is an honest reflection of the many social changes. As a socialistic poet, the pursuit of socialistic patriotism is the main theme of his poems.

To enhance understanding of Li Ying's poetry, this academic exercise is an attempt to develop a systematic approach towards the study of his poetry. The profound content and the special aesthetic features will be analysed in this academic exercise, and tries to affirm his status in contemporary Chinese Literature.