ABSTRACT

The objective of this Academic Exercise is to examine the impact of the Sino-Japanese War in 1937 on Malayan Chinese Literature, with respect to drama.

The Academic Exercise is organized into seven chapters. Chapter One deals with the reason for choosing this topic, the scope and the features of this study. Chapter Two discusses the response of the Overseas Chinese in Singapore and Malaya to the outbreak of the war. The patriotism of the Overseas Chinese was manifested in various salvation activities. The wide publicity of the local Chinese newspapers further facilitated the growth of this patriotism. Chapter Three highlights the sixteen drama supplements found in seven local Chinese newspapers during that period. These supplements were reflections of the rapid growth of the drama literature. Chapter Four reveals that the theories and debates of the prevailing drama literature were very much related to the theme of salvation. Chapter Five provides a general survey of all drama works found mainly in the seven local Chinese newspapers. Some of these works related to the salvation activities of the Overseas Chinese in Singapore and Malaya are briefly introduced. In Chapter Six, tables are used to discuss the numerous drama performances during that period. The concluding chapter of this Academic Exercise shows that the Sino-Japanese War had extensive
influence on the drama literature in Singapore and Malaya.

The materials of this Academic Exercise come mainly from the seven local Chinese newspapers published between 1937 to 1941. The significant features of this study are: firstly, the research into the drama supplements in terms of quantity has yielded seven more drama supplements than were previously known. Secondly, most of the drama works listed in Tables 1 and 2 of the appendix had never been discovered before. Thirdly, the dramatic performances during the period under study were twice that of the last study made.