Abstract

This academic exercise aims at extensively analysing and objectively evaluating Zhong Lihe (鍾理和, 1915-1960) and his representative literary collection: Yuan Xiang Ren (The Man from Homeland 原乡人), which contains thirteen stories.

As Zhong Lihe was born in the Japanese-occupied Taiwan, he was compelled to take up Japanese education. He had to strive extremely hard to become a Chinese writer in his twenties. Despite his great efforts, his works were not appreciated by the publishers and readers when he was alive. He was only recognized and commended by some critics after his death.

Being a writer of native soil, his works reflect social reality, the fate of the common people of his home town, and other personal experiences. Unfortunately and ironically, his attempt to break away from the literary mode during his period resulted in making him a writer who gained no supporters. Hence, this research, besides studying his life and work, serves to justify his position in the Taiwan "Xiang Tu" (乡土) literary world in the mid-20th century.

The following consists of seven chapters. The introductory chapter explains the motive and scope of the study of Zhong Lihe. Chapter Two is a comprehensive account of his tragic life and obstinate thought. Chapter Three is a general description of his remarkable literary contribution. Chapter Four, Five, and Six examine the literary merits and shortcomings of his short-story writing. The final chapter recapitulates the arguments and reiterates the posthumous importance of Zhong Lihe.