Abstract

This thesis attempts to examine the development of pre-modern Chinese “yu qi ci” seen from the novel “Romance of the Three Kingdom”. Many of the supporting examples in this thesis come from the tabulations and findings from the novel.

The development of pre-modern Chinese “yu qi ci” is a vast topic to explore. As such the use of the novel “Romance of the Three Kingdom” is an appropriate start for our us to examine the usage of “yu qi ci” in pre-modern Chinese and compare our findings with the development of “yu qi ci” in ancient Chinese and modern Chinese. It is undisputed that the novel “Romance of the Three Kingdom” was written in the pre-modern Chinese period, as such, it will be able to reflect to us the actual usage of “yu qi ci” at that period.

By tabulating the number of times each “yu qi ci” occurs in “Romance of the Three Kingdom”, we are able to get an idea of the more common “yu qi ci” used in pre-modern Chinese and the various functions of the different “yu qi ci” used.

In the thesis, we have noted that from ancient to pre-modern Chinese, pre-modern chinese “yu qi ci” did not defer much from ancient Chinese “yu qi ci”. However, there is an obvious diversion in development from pre-modern Chinese “yu qi ci” to modern Chinese “yu qi ci”.