Abstract

The aim of this paper is to examine the relationship between the emergence of autobiographical works and the “Discovery of Child” during the May-fourth period in China. This paper will first study the nature of autobiography and then explain the phenomenon of the increasing autobiographical works that are produced during the period. By analyzing Guo Moruo and Shen Congwen’s childhood autobiography, the paper will seek to explain the above phenomenon.

In addition, I have identified two major themes in Guo and Shen’s work, i.e. “Rebellious spirit” and the “image of parents”. By studying these themes, I will show how the emergence of autobiography empowers the author to construct an identity that is suitable/coincides with the May-fourth spirits and also the “re-discovery” of childhood. I will in turn show the intricate relationship between the writing of autobiography, discovery of childhood and also process of identity creation.