ABSTRACT

The objective of this thesis is to study the issues faced by Singapore-Malayan Chinese women through Singapore-Malayan Chinese newspapers’ women-supplements, mainly through Nanyang Siang Pau and Sin Chew Jit Poh, two of the most important newspapers during the post-war years (1945-1948). Many studies on the historical developments of Singapore-Malayan Chinese newspapers and its supplements had been carried out. However, few studies have used Singapore-Malayan Chinese newspapers’ women-supplements as the main source.

This thesis is therefore prompted by the need to provide an insight into the coverage of feminine issues by Nanyang Siang Pau and Sin Chew Jit Poh, particularly on the roles of Chinese women in all aspects of social life in the society during the post-war years.

The women-supplements of the Chinese newspapers of that era were selected as the source of research because of their importance in centralizing discussions of feminine issues and in reflecting the problems faced by Singapore-Malayan Chinese women. Besides, there were not much writing about women then. Therefore, women-supplement is the most appropriate and important source for providing an insight into Singapore-Malayan Chinese’s views on feminine issues during the post-war years.

Chapter one establishes the research methodology and defines the scope and aim of the study. An account of the Singapore-Malayan society
during the post-war years (1945-1948) is given in Chapter two. In Chapter three, an introduction of the Nanyang Siang Pau and Sin Chew Jit Poh women-supplements is provided.

Chapter four focuses on the significant themes that can be found inside the women-supplements. A wide variety of issues, like females’ status in marriage and family, females’ education, females’ participation in politics, was discussed. From their discussions, it is found that Singapore-Malayan Chinese faced problems in adjusting between traditional and western values. Nevertheless, they were more conscious in improving the status of women, despite difficulties faced during the post-war years.

In the last chapter, the author concludes by giving an overview of this study.