Abstract

The poetry describing objects, yung-wu shi (咏物诗) was one of the main subgenres in Chinese classical lyric traditions which began to take shape during the Qi-Liang period (479 - 577 A.D.). Studies on this poetry has been limited to its later development in the Tang Dynasty. This academic exercise is to fill a gap in the studies of this poetry by critically analysing poems of this sort produced during the Qi-Liang period.

This thesis is a theoretical survey of poems of this subgenre during the Qi-Liang period. A great number of the poems of this sort are closely scrutinized referring to the sources from China, Taiwan, the United States and the United Kingdom. This thesis reconstructs the links between the described world in yung-wu shi and the living environment of the literati of Qi-Liang period. And, it also analyses the lyric techniques of this subgenre: the using of colour, the making of static images, and its specific concepts of time and space. This study finally sheds some light on the contributions of this subgenre to the formation of the regulated verse.

My study of the poetry of this subgenre reveals the significance and special positions in the Chinese literary history.