ABSTRACT

There is a consensus among the academicians that Mencius (孟子) had not only inherited the pillars of Confucius (孔子) thinking but had also played an important role in the furtherance of Confucius' teaching. While lip services have always been paid to Mencius for his positive contributions towards Confucianism, however, few detailed studies have been done on this subject. The objective of this academic exercise is to investigate the impacts of Confucianism on Mencius' teaching and the latter's role in propelling the development of Confucius' thought.

The first chapter gives relevant background information to Mencius, such as his birth and intellectual ability. This is followed by the main core of discussion in Chapter Two to Chapter Six, which examine the subject from five different perspectives: humanity, human nature, political, economic, educational. Mencius, having inherited these five areas of thought from Confucius, developed them further, especially the fundamental aspects of humanity and human nature.
Chapter Seven, a concluding chapter, shows that Mencius had successfully developed Confucius' ideas into a more self-contained and systematic school of thought. Owing to the differences in historical background, Mencius' intellectual position may differ from that of Confucius, nevertheless, their spirit was essentially the same.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Suh Sain Wai, lecturer of the Department of Chinese Studies, for his inspiring guidance, suggestions, encouragements and criticism throughout the course of research and writing.

I am also very grateful to my family and friends for their helps and supports, especially Mr. Loo Yow Tong (呂耀東先生), who have, in one way or another, encouraged me in the course of my Academic Exercise.

NG LAY KHENG
DECEMBER 1985