ABSTRACT

The study shows that the transformation of Guo Moruo from romanticism to Marxism is more apparent than real. His strength in the contemporary Chinese literary arena was due to his ability to write poetry, drama, fiction, autobiography and translation. This academic exercise attempts to study the literary thoughts of Guo before and after 1924.

In the early years of his literary life, Guo was predominantly influenced by the romantic writers of the West: Goethe, Shelly, Heine, Whitman and others. In 1924, Guo suddenly declared his conversion to Marxism—Leninism. He condemned the romantic literature, and urged that the literature must be realistic and proletarian.

This exercise consists of five chapters. The introductory chapter provides the rationale for the study of Guo's literary thoughts and a brief description of the approach to the topic. Chapter Two introduces Guo's autobiographical works, while the study of Guo's literary thoughts before 1924 is covered in the next chapter (Chapter Three). Subjectivism and pantheism were the main themes of Guo's romantic thought. The latter part of Guo's literary thoughts, dealt with in Chapter Four, was overshadowed by his political ideology. During this period (after 1924), Guo first condemned the romantics. However, he later claimed that the best literary works were a merger of realism and romanticism. The final chapter provides a summary of the whole study.
The study shows that the transformation of Guo Moruo from romanticism to Marxism is more apparent than real. His greatness in the contemporary Chinese literary scene was due to his ability to merge realism and romanticism in his works.

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