Abstract

For nearly four decades, from the late 1920s to the early 1970s, Mr Chua Boon Hean had worked for Singapore Shaw Organization as the Head of Chinese Department, and taken part in Singapore Shaw’s pictures production, distribution and exhibition. Besides, Mr Chua was one of the famous Singapore writers, who wrote under the pen name, Liu Beian. Best known for his poetry, he also actively participated in literature activities, such as Singapore Association of Writer. Mr Chua had contributed his whole life to the development of local entertainment industry and Chinese literature.

Being an overseas Chinese who emigrated from China, Mr chua owned memory and life experience from both hometown and Singapore. The cross-regional experience had molded and assisted his developing in the career of Shaw and literary creation. Meanwhile, such precious experience had also promoted the integration of his roles as a filmmaker and literati. The objectives of this thesis are to appraise his roles in the two domains by studying his biography, the influence of the cross-regional experience towards his development in the film industry and literature, and finally how the two roles were interrelated to each other.

A brief description of the purpose of study was given in Chapter 1. In addition, the research method and materials used were narrated. The research was mostly based on oral history and interview. Meanwhile, other materials, such as newspaper, magazine, and some other research papers were used for reference.

The biography of Mr Chua was introduced in chapter 2 according to his experiences in different timing and states, and it was divided in four stages. From different stages of his lives, he had established relationship with different circles. The network built among his circles had some disparities with the other overseas
Chinese's, like businessmen and labours, whose network interaction generally based on dialect, clan, and profession.

The roles and job scope of Mr Chua in Singapore Shaw organization was analyzed through viewing his works from 1929 to 1973. Some of his main job will be clarified and specified in order to find out transform of his role and importance along the development of Shaw.

Mr Chua's role as Liu Beian and his writing style were discussed in Chapter 4. His experience in Chinese literature and relationship with other literati will be indicated. Through his network circles, the integration of his roles: filmmaker and literati, was shown, ad he managed to be the connection between entertainment industry and literati.

Last, chapter 5 is the concluding chapter. The reason of the emergence of the integration between two roles was further postulated that both entertainment industry and literati had the needs towards each other. Film industry needs intellectuals to participate in production, distribution and exhibition, which include publicity. Meanwhile, the literati need's field to show their abilities and likes towards literature which could be provided by film industry.