ABSTRACT

Zhao Shuli (赵树理 1906 - 1970) was a well-known writer in the contemporary Chinese literary world. Consistently, he lived up to his reputation of creative realism in his work. Among all his literary works, "Li Youcai Ban Hua" (《李有才板话》) was a highly remarkable one which manifested his style of writing. However, there has not been any systematic research done on this novel yet. In view of this, an attempt is made to examine this outstanding novel so that others may have a chance to appreciate his writing.

Structurally, this study is divided into eight chapters. The introductory chapter consists of a brief description of Zhao Shuli's novel and the reasons for choosing his novel for analysis. Chapter two is an account of his life and literary activities. An introduction on the story background and aims of the author are covered in chapter three, while chapter four highlights the themes which focus on the repercussions of feudalism on the villagers, the materialistic money-grabbing attitude of the landlord and criticisms of the bureaucracy of the village cadre. An analysis of the typical characters of the novel is presented in chapter five. The following chapter explores the specific artistic features of his novel under four categories: sequence of plots, rhythmic comic talk, colloquial language and strong local flavour. Chapter seven critically evaluates the content and artistic techniques of the novel. The final chapter sums up the study by giving an assessment of his literary merits.

The study shows that "Li Youcai Ban Hua" is a significant contribution of Zhao Shuli to modern Chinese fiction writing.