ABSTRACT

Lu You (陆游), a patriotic poet of the Song Dynasty (宋), is more popular for his achievement in poetry than in his lyrics (词). Hence, studies of his poetic achievements are many, but studies of his lyrics are few, especially his patriotic lyrics. The study of his patriotic lyrics would help us to understand his patriotism and his creativity in lyrics.

Lu You was influenced, to a very large extent, by his grandfather and his father who were senior government officials and had outstanding achievements in literature. Their loyalty to the Song emperors had, in one way or another, helped to shape Lu You's personality and attitude towards the nation and his fellow citizens at large.

The lyrics of Lu You amount to more than one hundred and thirty pieces, of which, the majority are of patriotic lyrics. Most of his works were written at the time when his country was invaded by the Jin (金) tribe of the north. He expressed his sympathy to the people who lived in the occupied territory and his anger towards the invaders. Also found in his patriotic lyrics was his anxiety in defending the country.

His skill of writing has been highly praised by most critics. He used symbolisms to show his eagerness to sacrifice himself for the country in his lyrics. These can also be seen in his poems.

Many people in the past were more interested in studying the patriotic lyrics of Xin Jia Xuan (辛稼轩), a more prolific writer of the same period. As Lu You's works have a distinctive style, they should also be studied in depth so that a comparison can be made with the works of other writers of the same period. By making a comparative study, one would have a better insight into the creation of patriotic lyrics during the Song Dynasty.