ABSTRACT

The aim of this academic exercise is to examine the value of Feng Ban's theories of poetry, relying mainly on Dun Ying Zha Lu (であること by Feng Ban. I selected Feng Ban for this study because up to now, there is no precise nor systematic studies on his poetical theories, even though they are important and significant.

As this study focuses on the analysis of the poetic theories of Feng Ban, only those relevant aspects which reflect Feng's views on poetry are included, even though Dun Ying Zha Lu includes many other aspects. In fact, it is far more complicated to read the poetic theories of a critic from compiled notes then from his theoretical writings because their comments are often disorganised, fragmented and non-analytical in nature. However, Dun Ying Zha Lu was the only document left by Feng Ban. Therefore, I have to piece together the scattered comments over the complied notes, and to use the principle of inductive and deductive reasoning to reconstruct the theoretical framework of Feng Ban.

The findings of this study proved that a probe into the compiled notes does provide us with an indepth understanding and a more rounded picture of Feng Ban's poetic theories. Hence, compiled notes are also an essential source of materials which should not be ignored in the study of chinese literary criticism.