Abstracts

The twentieth century has witnessed the rise and evolution of Feminism, a western concept, which however has not fully transformed itself in China. Different from the western concept, the Chinese Feminist Literary Criticism has existed eons ago as part of the Chinese Literature. Hence, the liberation of the women’s movement in China is largely due to its literature history rather than a political campaign that arises out of the Chinese women’s consciousness. Therefore, in understanding the women’s movement in China, one must study the underlying consciousness in the Chinese texts written by Chinese female authors.

Yan Geling (严歌苓), a contemporary Chinese author who has won rave reviews and critically acclaimed awards overseas, is well known for her feminist writing style. By deconstructing her texts such as Shaonu Xiaoyu 《少女小渔》 and Fu Sang 《扶桑》, one will be able to grasp her concept of feminism, which implies that the women’s strength is her feminism. Her definition of feminism, though different from the western concept, shows strong Oriental influence. By analyzing her texts such as Tianyu 《天浴》 and exploring the world of her literary characters, one is awed by her understanding of human nature and her concept of China history, especially during the China Cultural Revolution (文化大革命). With great insight in cultural differences, she has also written numerous works in Immigrant Literature (新移民文学), which have subsequently been translated into movies. These works offer great insight on the cultural impact on women, in which they explore the
women’s consciousness and the state of women’s lives in a foreign culture.

Hence, her works are, in a way, true reflections of women’s lives, be it in China where she grew up, or United States where she currently resides with her husband. Constantly challenging the norms of the polite society, she has re-define feminism into her own language, perhaps one that is much more suitable for the Chinese women. Despite her unique opinions and subtle suggestions, all her works often reflect the struggle that women face rather than being judgmental. In conclusion, one can assume that her works are influenced by her own life history and they reflect her character and personality, in some way or another.