ABSTRACT

Tang Dynasty is one of the golden ages of Chinese literature. Poetry was the pre-dominant focus, while other forms of literature were no less significant. Lu Zhaolin is one of the highly respected poets during the early Tang period. But much research has been done mainly on his poems and his biography. It is therefore the aim of this academic exercise to study Lu Zhaolin’s rhyme-prose in greater detail.

First of all, the career of Lu Zhaolin will be discussed to facilitate the study of his works. In the next chapter, the discussion of his works will be based on published studies and personal analysis. The academic exercise also aims to give a brief discussion about the Taoist thinking reflected in his later works.

Some comparisons have been made and Lu’s works display influence from the works of the Northern and Southern Dynasties (420A.D.–479A.D.) as well as the Chuci tradition. However, Lu’s works are based on actual encounters in his life which provide him with true feelings often expressed in his literary works. This is further shown after he had contracted arthritis in the later part of his life. We observe his outlook of life changed dramatically since then. Lu who finally took his own life also wrote many works to express his frustration about his unfortunate fate.