ABSTRACT

The 1919 May 4th Movement was a dynamic movement in which new ideas flourished. It was against this particular historical background that a group of writers, with Lu Xun as the leader, began to experience with rural and regional themes. These writers were later to be known as Xiangtu fiction writers who showed profound interest in everyday country life and the "noble savage". Wang Luyan was undoubtedly a significant part of this literary tradition.

The aim of this study is to explore and critically evaluate Wang's important Xiangtu fiction. His fiction is of supreme quality. His writings recount life in the army, life in the woods and the life of a multitude of peasants, poor yet innocent and primitive.

This study consists of six chapters. The introductory chapter traces the emergence of Wang Luyan as a Xiangtu writer in the literary world of China. Chapter two provides information regarding Wang Luyang's life. Chapter three discusses the origin and the style of Xiangtu literature and Luyan's status among the Xiangtu writers. Chapter four examines Xiangtu fiction. Chapters five and six investigate the main themes and artistry of his work. An assessment of Wang Luyan's achievements in the genre is provided in the final chapter.