Abstract

Xiao Hong (1911-1942) was a prominent fiction writer of the May Fourth period in China. She led an itinerant life and died in Japanese-occupied Hong Kong at the age of thirty-one. Her writing career spanned less than a decade, but her works have stood as models for later generations of writers.

Xiao Hong’s works were well received but unfortunately the studies conducted on her works have revolved mainly between her life story and specific works, resulting in the negligence of her other works. This thesis aims to conduct a well-rounded discussion by including those works that have been overlooked.

This thesis strives to offer a brand new perspective on Xiao Hong’s works by introducing a neoteric approach in studying the writer’s works. Through the examination of the significance of Love, Hatred, Life and Death as motifs in her literary opus, a complete vista of what the writer’s thematic concerns and stylistic patterns are like can then be presented, thus completing the jigsaw pieces missing in previous studies.

This thesis concludes that the motifs of Love, Hatred, Life and Death are essential in the investigation of Xiao Hong’s works. These motifs
embodys the beliefs that she embraces and the stylistic preferences that best displays her thematic concerns. And by doing so, this thesis affirms the significant representations of Love, Hatred, Life and Death, thus offering a novel outlook of Xiao Hong’s works.