ABSTRACT

Ru Zhijuan (茹志鹃) is a well-known female writer in the contemporary Chinese literary world. She started writing when she joined the Liberation Army during the Liberation War of China in 1946. She was then inspired by the spirit of the whole liberation and was positive in both thinking and writing. However, her writing career came to a halt during the Cultural Revolution. She resumed her writing in 1976 after ten years of sufferings. Her writing after the Revolution was both agonizing and critical. Thus, the purpose of the present study is to explore and critically assess the artistry of Ru Zhijuan’s fiction in the realm of contemporary Chinese literature.

Structurally, this study is divided into five chapters. The introductory chapter gives a brief overview of the scope and purpose of this study. The second chapter is an account of the author’s life and literary activities. The third chapter proceeds to compare her work between two periods — the period before the Cultural Revolution and the period after. The next chapter, which is the focus of the whole study, explores the specific artistry of Ru Zhijuan’s novels under four categories: drawing of materials, characterization, structure of fiction and the use of language. The final chapter concludes with a summary and a reinforcement of the value of Ru Zhijuan’s work.

The study is thus an attempt to establish Ru Zhijuan as a successful writer in contemporary Chinese literature.