Abstract

Pan Deyu's (潘德舆, 1785 - 1839) notes on poetry --- "Yang Yi Zhai Shi Hua" (《养一斋诗话》) of the Qing period, has not attracted much attention and examination in Chinese literary criticism.

The purpose of this honours thesis is to examine the central ideas and important contributions of Pan's poetic theory.

Similar to other works on the notes on poetry, the comments in "Yang Yi Zhai Shi Hua" are not orderly organised. Hence, a systematic attempt is made to arrange and compile his views and ideas. Various principles of poetic criticism are used to analyse his literary work.

Chapter one of this study provides a life account of Pan Deyu. Chapter two and three examine his poetic theory on various aspects. Chapter four looks into how he views his predecessors and contemporaries.

The findings show that Pan adopts the Confucianist view that poetry serves the purpose of education and socialisation, and that cultivation of moral values on the part of the poet is essential. From a purely literary appreciation point of view, he also stresses the importance of the aesthetic quality in poetry. Hence, Pan's poetic views as a whole, is both pertinent and comprehensive.