ABSTRACT

In the contemporary Chinese literary world, Sun Li (孙犁) is reputed to be a great writer of realism. Recently, more and more writers follow Sun Li's writing where the central idea of his works focuses on the anti-Japanese activities in China. It is said that a new literary branch called the He Hua Zhan Pai (荷花淀派) has been headed by Sun Li.

Sun Li became famous in the thirties for short stories, poems and essays. He believed that his works are about truth, goodness and beauty. His characters are people who reflect the extremes of truth, goodness and beauty in the anti-Japanese movement. As a responsible author, he has to write the truth and give praise to the Chinese people in their struggle against Japanese imperialism.

Feng Yun Chu Ji (《风云初记》) is the second novel of Sun Li. It was published in the '60s and received critical praise from the literary circles. The novel successfully describes how the war influences the lives and feelings of the people. The author does not describe the cruel war directly but uses poetic language and musical tunes to express the theme, recording the anti-
Japanese movement and spirit honestly. These are the reasons why the novel gains the reputation of being a "poetic novel".

The theme of the novel is to criticize the aggression and inhumanity of the Japanese imperialists and the compromising attitude of the Guo Min Dang (国民党). Most important, the novel is a work of praise for the courage and the high fighting spirit of the people. The novel depicts the people of Wu Long Tang (五龙堂) and Zi Wu Zhen (子午镇) who, inflamed by the unstable political situation, fought bitter battles with the enemies. They realized that to fight against the invaders was the only way to rescue themselves from the Japanese.

The name Sun Li may not be familiar to readers in Asian countries, mainly because of the lack of patronage and of interest in the study of his literary works. The main purpose of the present Academic Exercise is to receive interest in his most representative novel, Feng Yun Chu Ji as the starting point for examining his other literary works. With this study, it is hoped that Sun Li will gain his rightful status as a fine modern novelist in China's contemporary literary world.