ABSTRACT

This Academic Exercise is a study of the early indigenous short stories of Lu Xun (鲁迅), Jian XianAi (钱先艾), Tai JingNong (台静农), Xu QingWen (许钦文) and Wang LuYan (王鲁彦). It strives to bring out the major contributions made by these writers to modern Chinese literature between the 1919s and the 1929s. What is intended here is to focus closely upon their new subject matter, namely the concentration on social mood and thinking prevailing during that time.

Lu Xun pioneered the style of modern Chinese indigenous short stories, for example, My Old Home (Gu Xiang) 《故乡》, The New-Year Sacrifice (Zhu Fu) 《祝福》, Village Opera (She Xi) 《社戏》, etc. The other writers followed this tradition. However, Lu Xun was able to achieve social realism in that the cause of any social behaviour is always brought to the readers' attention.

For clarity and conciseness, I have structured this Academic Exercise into six chapters. The introductory chapter consists of a brief discussion of modern Chinese indigenous stories' prominent status in China's literary world and the objective and scope of studying these short stories. Chapter two analyses the development of earlier indigenous short stories, in addition to my analytical view of XiangTu (乡土). Chapter three evaluates the writers' and their respective works. Chapter four is an in-depth analysis of the stories' main themes. Chapter five concerns the special aesthetic features in the writers' stories. Chapter six concludes with an overall evaluation of the previous chapters.

This Academic Exercise reveals that the literary movement of the period under review is of great significance. The movement involved more than mere changes in literary forms, styles and other linguistic features. It is important because it reflects the changing attitudes of writers during those important and turbulent years of modern literature history.