ABSTRACT

Chenwei, is a special way of Chinese prophecy. Prolepsis (Yuxu), on the other hand, is a narrative mode that fiction writers use to foretell the readers of the outcome of the fiction or fates of the characters. This academic exercise sets out to examine the relationship between the traditional Chinese prophecy and the prolepsis in the great Qing novel ‘The Story of the Stone’.

In Chapter Two, the exercise traces back to the Han dynasty when people’s belief in Chenwei reaches its peak. The traditional Chinese prophecy is also found to have occurred in different forms such as drawings, poems and events in daily life. Chapter Three of the exercise cited many examples of prolepsis in the novel that occur in the various forms said above. In Chapter Four, it is established that prolepsis, in the form of Chenwei, foretells the future of the novel’s endings only in a very modest way, thus successfully arousing the readers’ interest to read on. In the Fifth Chapter, the study concludes that the narrative mode of prolepsis, not only adds to the complexity of the narrative structure of the novel, but more importantly, reflects the author’s scepticism of the presence of “karmic justice” in real life, where the virtue are not necessarily rewarded.