Abstract

Liang Yu Sheng is a renowned writer of the genre known as sword-fighting novels (武侠小说). One of the key ingredients of his novels is the poetry, many of which he has written himself. Hence, this thesis focuses on the study of original poetry found within such sword-fighting novels, with all elaborations revolving around the close relationship between the poetry and the novels – the poetry found within the novels can never be completely separated and independent.

The thesis starts with an introduction to the topic, giving a basic background of the writer and his novels, as well as raising several important questions which would be answered in the later portion.

Subsequently, the paper focuses on the purpose and significance of the poetry within the sword-fighting novels. This is itself divided in two segments; one of them details the actual purposes of the poetry, backed up by concrete evidence found within the books. The second segment delves into the significance of the poetry through the use of various concepts of Chinese literary criticism.

The fourth segment explores Liang Yu Sheng’s writing style with regards to his poetry. This includes the essential properties of these literary works, as well as the formation of the highest form of art from Liang’s point of view, that of a hero who possesses both martial prowess and scholarly attributes.
Finally, the conclusion is an attempt to answer the questions raised in the introduction as well as throughout the paper. Essentially, this focuses on the dual issues of how the poetry affects the novels, and how the novels in turn affect the poetry.