ABSTRACT

Su Shi (苏轼 1037 – 1101) is a prominent figure in the Chinese literary field. On top of his writings, his paintings, calligraphies were also highly regarded. In addition, his literary criticism has greatly influenced the Chinese literary scene. This academic exercise aims to investigate and explore Su Shi’s interpretations of literary criticism.

It begins with Su Shi’s bibliography, which is important in providing a background for the understanding of some of the points in his literary criticism, which is influenced by his mentors, for example, Ouyang Xiú (欧阳修), and his father Su Xun (苏洵).

Worthy to note is that Su Shi always realises the relation between society, politics and poetry, prose. Hence, he acknowledges the importance of poetry and prose in both social and political world. He also emphasises simplicity and genuine emotion in writing. Furthermore, he has proposed a systematic way in the writing process. He believes in preparing the mind and soul and concentrating before writing. Also, writing style must be simplistic, fluent and natural in expression. To him, for one to appreciate literary works, he must have sufficient knowledge and background in this area, and possess an open-minded attitude reading others’ works.

Last of all, this academic exercise further acknowledges Su Shi’s contribution in literary criticism in the Chinese literary scene.