ABSTRACT

Xie Wan Ying (1900-1999), pseudonym Bing Xin, was a renowned and outstanding female writer after the May Fourth Movement. Her works, especially Ji Xiao Du Zhe (寄小读者), fascinated a wide range of readers, from children to adults, and because of Ji Xiao Du Zhe, the literary world bestowed Bing Xin with the name of “The Children’s writer” (儿童作家). She had her unique literary language known as the “Bing-Xin style” (冰心体). As her writing is the combination of traditional and innovative literary expression, quotations from classical literature were often detected in her works. However, literary critics concentrate mainly on her ideology and unavoidably overlook her style of writing and academic studies dealing with her use of language, specifically in the area of rhetoric, was little.

This six-chapter thesis looks primarily into the rhetorical devices used in Bing Xin’s prose writing. Chapters Two to Five are the leading articles of the thesis. Chapter One deals with the aims and scope of the study. The second and third chapters examine examples from the literature that employs the fifteen rhetoric techniques chosen earlier. Owing to the long discussion needed, two chapters were devoted to explain. Chapters Four and
Five are the analytical part of the thesis which includes comparison and statistic findings. In Chapter Three, sixty prose writings were chosen from three different phrases of Bing Xin’s writing years and in Chapter Four, the research focus is Ji Xiao Du Zhe, where the comparison of these rhetoric techniques used were made, looking into the most frequently and most infrequently devices used in such selected prose. Quantitative findings were added to reinforce and substantiate the results. Chapter Six, the concluding chapter, sums up the thesis and supplements a few more rhetoric techniques not stated in the earlier chapters.

The sources used are based on both published literature as well as personal interpretation and findings. It was clear that in the first phrase of Bing Xin’s writing years, rhetoric techniques were used more frequent and more diverse than the last phrase of her writing career. This thesis reflects the value of Bing Xin’s prose, particularly in the area of rhetoric, and draws out a great many facets still awaiting further study.