Abstract

The analysis and exploration of the treatment of the love theme in Li Shang-yin's poetry reveal his great contribution to Chinese

Li Shang-yin (813? - 858 A.D.), one of the most fascinating poets of the late Tang Dynasty, had established love as a major theme of his poetry. Although there were studies on his love poems, the theme of love has never been systematically analysed. The primary purpose of this academic exercise is therefore, to analyse the theme of love in Li Shang-yin's poetry.

Chapter One provides the objective and the approach of study.

Chapter Two examines the theme of love in classical Chinese poetry since pre-Qin till late Tang. For comparison, the differences between Li Shang-yin and other poets are highlighted.

Chapter Three analyses the theme of love through its content in five aspects: resentment of separation, fond memories of romantic past, search for eternal ideal love, recognition of loneliness, and indulgence in despair.

Chapter Four explores his artistic techniques in expressing love. It consists of three sections: creation of a steadfast self-image, evocation of melancholy, and expression of intrinsic emotions.

Chapter Five concludes the academic exercise with a summary of findings.
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