Abstract

Chu Ci was originated by Qu Yuan (屈原) who was a patriotic poet during the late Warring Period (475-221 B.C.). However, many people in the Han Dynasty emulated the writings of Chu Ci due to some remote and immediate causes.

One of the remote causes was that Han people sympathized with Qu Yuan being loyal to the State of Chu but was neither appreciated nor trusted by the emperors. They felt that they were in a sorry plight as Qu Yuan and thus they wrote poetry to reminisce him.

Another remote cause was that the Han people adored the beautiful writing style of Chu Ci. Therefore they emulated this style. From these two causes, we see that "Chu Ci" in the Han Dynasty had its source from the Chu Ci of the State of Chu.

The immediate cause for emulation was that the emperors of Han were fond of Chu Song. They themselves set an example to emulate Chu Ci and hence other scholars followed.

Therefore during the four hundred years of the Han Dynasty (from Western Han's (西汉 206 B.C. - 8 A.D.) Gao Zu (高祖) to Eastern Han's (东汉 25 - 220 A.D.) Cai Yen (蔡琰)) The influences of Chu Ci on Han's literature become more widespread.

Structurally, this academic exercise is divided into five chapters. Chapter one traces the root of the word "Chu Ci" and explains the purpose of this paper. The main purpose is that, in the past, many people only studied Chu Ci written by Qu Yuan or other people in the State of Chu. Few of them ever touched on "Chu Ci" written by Han scholars. Thus this paper looks into the "Chu Ci" by
Han authors.

Chapter two is a brief introduction to the twenty authors who wrote "Chu Ci" in the Han Dynasty.

Chapter three and four discuss twenty-two pieces of "Chu Ci" that were emulated by Han scholars.

Chapter five is the conclusion. It is found that many people emulated Chu Ci in the Han Dynasty but among them, only few had creative elaboration of the ideas from such emulation. However, "Chu Ci" in the Han Dynasty is the kind of literature which bridges the gap between Chu Ci by people from the State of Chu and Han Fu (赋), thus it should occupy a considerable place in the history of Chinese literature.